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Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Committee's thirty-first ministerial meeting, held from 15 to 19 November 2010 in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (f), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raymond Serge **Balé**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

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A. Introduction

1. The thirty-first ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, from 15 to 19 November 2010.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa served as the Committee's secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs.

4. The following United Nations entities participated in the proceedings: the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

5. Also present as observers were the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

6. The opening ceremony featured:

- A statement by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Lamin Manneh;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, read by Mr. Aimé Mfoula-Nghanguy, Adviser on Political Affairs, Peace, Security and Stability;
- A message from the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, read by Her Excellency Ms. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, Special Representative of the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Director of the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Central African Republic;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs;
- A statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Alexis Thambwe-Mwamba, Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee;
- The opening statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé;

7. The closing ceremony featured:

- A statement by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs;
- The closing statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé.

B. Summary of proceedings

I. Election of the Bureau of the Committee

8. His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, was elected Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa by acclamation.

9. The Committee also elected the following countries as members of the Bureau:

- First Vice-Chairman: Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
- Second Vice-Chairman: Central African Republic
- Rapporteur: Republic of Equatorial Guinea

II. Adoption of the agenda

10. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of the Bureau of the Committee.
2. Adoption of the agenda of the thirty-first ministerial meeting.
3. Report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman.
4. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa.
5. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative:
   - Signature of the Kinshasa Convention;
   - Consideration and adoption of the Plan for the Implementation of the Kinshasa Convention;
   - Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa.
6. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa:
   - Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities (proliferation of small arms and light weapons and disarmament of civilian populations);
   - Briefing by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.
7. Promotion of peace and combating crime in Central Africa: maritime piracy in Central Africa.

8. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009).

9. Briefing by United Nations peace offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa.

10. Report of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

11. Report by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the institutional evolution of the subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, including ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), and of non-aggression and mutual assistance agreements, and the Central African multinational force (FOMAC).

12. Review of the financial situation of the Committee.

13. Date and place of the next meeting.

14. Other matters.

15. Adoption of the report of the thirty-first ministerial meeting.

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman

11. The Committee took note of the report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman. It commended the Chairman and the members of the Bureau on the dynamism with which they had performed their duties, and, in particular, on the efforts that had led to the adoption and signature of the Kinshasa Convention for the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, the adoption of the resolution on the Committee's activities and the preparation and organization of the thirty-first ministerial meeting, in close cooperation with the Committee secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

IV. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

12. The working paper on the review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, prepared by the ECCAS Secretariat, formed the basis for an exchange of views among States.

13. The Committee commended the ECCAS Secretariat on the quality of the working paper submitted for its consideration.

14. The review of the geopolitical and security situation of the subregion focused on three major issues: political and institutional developments, internal and cross-border security, and challenges posed by governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights.

15. The discussions pointed up contrasting developments in the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa since the Committee's last meeting. On the one hand, the subregion had witnessed considerable progress in the consolidation of

democratic processes and the normal functioning of institutions. On the other hand, certain States in the subregion had had to deal with worrisome security situations.

16. Highlights of the period under review had included the holding of elections in 2010 in Burundi, Rwanda, Gabon and in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the preparation of ballots for 2011, in particular, in Chad, the Democratic Republic the Congo, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

17. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the current lull in certain conflict areas, but noted nonetheless that Central Africa has been facing a number of threats to peace and security, including repeated attacks by Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the resurgence of organized crime and acts of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and continuing insecurity in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others.

18. Member States have undertaken substantial efforts with regard to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights. They also continue to adopt the relevant legal and institutional instruments governing these matters. The Committee urged member States to take the necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments at the national level.

19. The Committee also encouraged those member States which have not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of the African Union and to incorporate its provisions in their domestic legislation.

20. The Committee took note of the geopolitical situation of each country, as follows:

Republic of Angola

21. With regard to political life, a new Constitution adapted to the post-civil-war period and the requirements of the democratic process under way was adopted and promulgated. Angola also launched a review of the electoral list in anticipation of the general elections set for 2012.

22. With regard to security, the Angolan authorities are pursuing their peacebuilding and internal security initiatives. That situation is conducive to the protection and promotion of human rights and to the good governance necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In signing a memorandum of understanding for peace in Cabinda, the Government of Angola reiterated that it was fully prepared to pursue cordial negotiations with the interested parties in search of a peaceful solution in that region.

Republic of Burundi

23. The Republic of Burundi is pursuing its large-scale efforts to completely normalize its political, institutional and security situation. On the political front, the Committee welcomed the completion of a peaceful and democratic electoral process that culminated in institution-building, from the office of the President right down to the *conseils de collines* (local governing bodies).

24. The Committee found it nonetheless regrettable that the electoral process had been riddled with political tension and urged Burundian political actors to always

choose dialogue and cooperation with a view to ensuring the people's well-being. The Committee thus welcomed efforts by the Government of Burundi to improve governance and consolidate national reconciliation and reconstruction.

Republic of Cameroon

25. The general climate in the Republic of Cameroon since the last ministerial meeting has been one of peace and stability. The current focus of Cameroonian political life is on preparing for the 2011 presidential elections. The country is thus witnessing renewed activity among politicians as the elections draw near. The names of several opposition candidates have already been announced. On the other side, the members of the ruling party keep urging President Paul Biya to seek another term of office. In that same vein, some members of the opposition continue to question the legitimacy and neutrality of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), the institution responsible for organizing the elections.

26. The overall internal security situation remains positive. Nonetheless, the period under review remained fraught with security concerns, particularly as urban bandits and road blockers (*coupeurs de route*) carried on their destructive activities. At the same time, acts of maritime piracy and, in particular, repeated attacks of small craft, were still being committed in the Gulf of Guinea (Bakassi peninsula and land borders with Nigeria). There is now a resurgence of these two phenomena — which were thought to have subsided considerably — and they are even spreading to areas that had previously been spared.

27. For example, a Belgian vessel and the Croatian, Belgian and Philippine sailors comprising its six-member crew were taken hostage near Douala, for which the Africa Marine Commando, an armed Nigerian gang affiliated with the Niger Delta rebels, is claiming responsibility.

28. As for the challenges posed by governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights, Cameroon made significant strides that were recognized by the international community, including its campaign to combat corruption and hold public officials to a higher standard of decency, leading to prison sentences for certain senior civil service officials found to have broken the law. Lastly, since early 2010, the Republic of Cameroon has been effectively implementing decentralization by gradually transferring national government functions to decentralized local authorities.

Central African Republic

29. Generally speaking, preparations for the 2011 presidential election have dominated political life in the Central African Republic. In that context, the Committee welcomed the adoption of a new timetable unanimously adopted by the members of the Independent Electoral Commission and agreed to by nearly all political actors.

30. The Committee also welcomed the resolution of the problem of financing the elections, thanks to the payment of contributions by external partners.

31. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the lack of resources necessary in order for the competent government agencies in certain provinces to function, coupled with the activity of politico-military movements such as the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace in the north and the presence of the

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the south-eastern and north-eastern sections of the country, have made the security of the populations precarious. In that context, the Committee expressed its concern at the security and humanitarian situation of numerous Central African populations and of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the south-eastern part of the country.

32. The Committee took note of the efforts of the African Union, particularly the regional ministerial meeting on the question of LRA held in Bangui on 13 and 14 October 2010. It welcomed the measures taken by the African Union to ensure rapid implementation of the outcomes of the Bangui meeting.

33. The Committee noted that pursuant to the recommendations of the Inclusive Political Dialogue, a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is currently being implemented in the Central African Republic. The initiative includes the five politico-military groups which signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Libreville on 21 June 2008.

34. In that connection, the Committee took note of the deployment of ECCAS military observers to assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, particularly in verifying the lists of 8,000 ex-combatants to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into either the official armed forces or their host communities.

35. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Central African authorities, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX1) aimed at the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as other relevant initiatives to reform the security sector in Central Africa.

Republic of the Congo

36. Congolese political life was marked by the Government's peacebuilding efforts and its efforts to achieve national unity. With regard to security, public order continued to be effectively maintained. Similarly, the ongoing national campaign to disarm ex-combatants in the Pool region and recover their weapons yielded positive results, including:

- the recruitment of 250 ex-combatants of the National Resistance Council (CNR);
- the appointment of the President of CNR, Mr. Frédéric Bitsamou, to the Office of Delegate-General to the President of the Republic, in charge of promoting the values of peace and repairing the ravages of war;
- the redeployment of the administration in the department of Pool.

37. On the humanitarian level, the Committee welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Congolese authorities, in cooperation with their counterparts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to stabilize the situation in the northern part of the country, where numerous displaced persons from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo were being hosted.

38. The Committee furthermore welcomed the signing of the Tripartite Agreement (Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, HCR) of 10 June 2010

and the adoption of a timetable setting 20 April 2011 as the start-up date for operations to repatriate displaced persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo living in the northern part of the country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

39. The overall situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had continued to improve as a result of efforts by the competent national authorities. On a political level, the Government was preparing for the elections scheduled for November 2011, in particular by reviewing the electoral rolls. Parliament had also voted on an act on the organization and operation of the Independent Electoral Commission.

40. On the diplomatic level, the Committee welcomed the strengthening of relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the two other member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Burundi and Rwanda. That had led in particular to the consolidation of Community operations.

41. The Committee furthermore expressed its pleasure at the reopening of the diplomatic missions and exchange of ambassadors among the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

42. With regard to security, the situation had improved considerably, except in the eastern part of the country where armed groups continued to commit massive human rights violations. The situation in the northwest part of the eastern province likewise remained of concern because of the presence of and criminal activities of the Mbororo herders, along with the destruction of the ecosystem. Subsequent to the 20 September 2010 "Regional meeting on the migration of the Mbororo herders: causes, consequences and solutions" held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the Commission of the African Union, the Committee appealed to all partners for appropriate support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resolve the problem.

43. With a view to strengthening security and the restoration of public order, the Government, with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral partners, has undertaken reforms within the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the National Police and the security services.

44. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has also conducted mixed patrols and operations with its neighbours, in particular the Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

45. With regard to humanitarian action and human rights, the situation has improved noticeably even though numerous cases of human rights violations committed by armed groups should be mentioned. The Committee welcomed the World March of Women which had taken place in Bukavu in South Kivu province, on the initiative of Congolese women under the auspices of the First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to protest violence against women. It also welcomed the continued efforts by the Government to combat impunity.

46. Finally, it took note of the suspension of mining activities in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and the Eastern Province, which had fed into the climate of insecurity in this part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

47. The Committee welcomed the signing of agreements between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Burundi, the

Republic of Uganda, the Republic of the Congo and UNHCR for the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees in their countries and those of the other countries concerned who were living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Republic of Gabon

48. The Committee expressed its pleasure at the general situation of peace and security prevailing in the Republic of Gabon. On the political level, the Committee also took note of the founding of a new opposition political party in Parliament called "National Union" and the holding of the tenth regular congress of the party in power, the Gabonese Democratic Party. It also took note of the desire of the executive branch to revise the Constitution so that it better met the aspirations of the Gabonese people.

49. In addition, the Committee welcomed the fact that the partial legislative elections during 2010 had gone smoothly, leading to a slight reconfiguration of the National Assembly. The Committee encouraged the Gabonese Government to continue the review of the electoral lists with a view to the legislative elections planned for 2011.

50. With regard to humanitarian action and human rights, Gabon had deposited a legal instrument concerning the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000) during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly held in September 2010 in New York.

51. Moreover, during the second half of December 2010, Gabon will conduct an operation on trafficking of children under the auspices of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in Libreville.

52. With regard to domestic security, the Committee noted that Gabon remains stable despite a resurgence of urban and peri-urban crime.

53. The Committee welcomed the effective participation of African States of the Atlantic coast, including the countries of Central Africa, in the meeting held on 14 and 15 November 2010 in Rabat, Morocco, and their valuable contribution to its work. At the meeting, the ministers and heads of delegation adopted a plan of action which addressed security and other matters.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea

54. The overall situation in Equatorial Guinea was peaceful. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the Committee welcomed the stability and normal operation of the security services of Equatorial Guinea. It also welcomed the efforts under way to strengthen security in the country in the run-up to both the African Union Summit to be held there and the next Africa Cup of Nations football matches to be hosted jointly with Gabon.

55. The Committee encouraged Equatorial Guinea to continue its efforts to better manage migration flows and to strengthen efforts to combat the increase in major crime in its larger cities. It welcomed the decision by the Government to strengthen the naval component of the national army to enable it better to confront maritime piracy, among other things. The Committee also encouraged the Government to continue the efforts already undertaken to guarantee the rights and freedoms of its

citizens. Along those lines, it commended the acquittals handed down in the trial of the alleged perpetrators of the February 2009 attack against national institutions in Malabo.

Republic of Rwanda

56. The overall situation in Rwanda was characterized by stability and normal functioning of its institutions. On the political level, Rwanda continues to consolidate its democracy. The August 2010 presidential elections took place in this spirit, President Paul Kagame being re-elected for another seven-year term.

57. With regard to internal security, public order and security were effectively maintained, despite grenade attacks attributed to a high-ranking army officer, in exile.

58. In the areas of governance and human rights, the Government has made remarkable progress.

Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

59. The political situation in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe was characterized mainly by calm, stability, and normal functioning of institutions. The Committee welcomed the fact that the municipal, regional and legislative elections of 2010 had taken place without incident and took note of Government preparations for the presidential elections scheduled for 2011.

60. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the situation was stable, and the Government was in the process of conducting efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and maritime piracy.

61. Concerning governance, the Committee encouraged the Government to pursue its policy of reform of the justice, defence and security sectors, and also to continue its policy of investment in poverty reduction, combating corruption, construction and modernization of public infrastructure and implementation of projects in the areas of rural development and water, energy, education, health care and food security.

Republic of Chad

62. In Chad, the overall situation was one of peace and stability. The Government was continuing to implement the agreement of 13 August 2007, as well as its policy of extending a hand to the rebel forces. On a political level, the Committee welcomed the continued efforts of the new Government to promote national reconciliation. It also welcomed the establishment of the Joint Electoral Commission with a view to the preparations for the forthcoming elections, including the imminent launch of the electoral census throughout the country.

63. On a diplomatic level, the atmosphere of calm with Sudan had been maintained during the period under review. The security situation had permitted the deployment of a joint force estimated at 3,000 troops along the border between the two countries, preventing any cross-border movements of armed elements and eliminating criminal activity.

64. On a humanitarian level, Chad continues to host in its territory over 400,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as thousands of internally displaced persons.

65. The Committee took note of the Government's decision to terminate the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and to effect its withdrawal from Chadian territory. It was pleased at the willingness of Chad to continue discussions with the United Nations Secretary-General on the smooth withdrawal of MINURCAT.

V. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

Signature of the Kinshasa Convention

66. The Committee turned to the signing of the "Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly", known as the "Kinshasa Convention".

67. The member States pledged to take all necessary measures to enable the Kinshasa Convention to be ratified as soon as possible with a view to its entry into force.

68. The member States also stated that they were prepared to implement all the provisions of the Kinshasa Convention.

Consideration and adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention

69. In accordance with the decision taken by States members of the Committee at its thirtieth ministerial meeting, the "draft implementation plan for the Kinshasa Convention", developed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, served as the basis for an exchange of views by members.

70. Members of the Committee formally adopted the "Implementation Plan for the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly", known as the "Kinshasa Convention". The document as adopted is annexed to the present report.

71. The States members of the Committee commended the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the quality of the document produced, and expressed their satisfaction with its content. They reiterated their gratitude to the Government of Austria for its financial support.

72. The States members of the Committee expressed satisfaction that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa had taken into account their comments and the contributions of independent experts who met on 23 and 24 September 2010 at Lomé, Togo, to finalize the Plan.

73. The Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention is organized around the nine chapters of the Convention: (1) purpose and definitions; (2) transfers; (3) possession of small arms and light weapons by civilians; (4) manufacture, distribution and repair; (5) operational procedures; (6) transparency and exchange of

information; (7) harmonization of national legislation; (8) institutional arrangements and implementation; and 9) general and final provisions.

74. Each chapter covered in the Implementation Plan is analysed according to three types of measures: (1) institutional measures; (2) regulatory measures; and (3) operational measures.

75. The objective of the Implementation Plan is to allow the various actors involved — the States members of the Committee, the ECCAS Secretariat and the United Nations Secretary-General as the depositary — each to be aware at their own level of their respective areas of responsibility under the Kinshasa Convention.

76. The Implementation Plan highlights the main activities to be conducted at the national level by the States parties, and at the subregional level by the Secretariat of ECCAS. The United Nations is also involved, in particular through the function of depositary of the Convention that the United Nations Secretary-General will exercise.

77. In addition, taking into account its role in coordination of activities and assistance to member States, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General of ECCAS should establish and make operational within six months at the latest a Small Arms Unit. It also requested that the Secretary-General of ECCAS should submit a report on the implementation of this recommendation at the thirty-second ministerial meeting.

78. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General of ECCAS, as soon as the Kinshasa Convention had entered into force, should develop a subregional programme of priority activities to be conducted in the long term. In that regard, it appealed to international and regional partners to offer any assistance required to member States as well as the ECCAS Secretariat.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

79. The Committee took note with interest of the measures taken by the ECCAS Secretariat to internalize the Code of Conduct through a meeting of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX). It welcomed the submission to donors by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa of a plan for dissemination and education on the Code of Conduct in the 11 States members of the Committee in cooperation with the ECCAS Secretariat.

80. The Committee also reaffirmed the need for and importance of the Code of Conduct as a tool for promoting democratic governance of the security sector, improving civilian-military relations and increasing the professionalism of the defence and security forces in Central Africa. In that context, it encouraged all member States to implement it without delay and to promote it within their respective defence and security institutions.

VI. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities (proliferation of small arms and light weapons and disarmament of civilian populations)

81. The Committee took note with interest of the briefings by certain member States on the problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in their respective countries. They also heard about the measures taken to address the problem in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action and the 2003 Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities.

82. In this context, the Committee noted with interest the briefing of the representative of the Republic of Angola. Since the previous meeting of the Committee, the Angolan Government, deeming that the collection of arms from the civilian population is essential to ensure peace, had continued a programme for civilian disarmament in four stages: (a) awareness-raising; (b) voluntary arms collection; (c) forced arms collection; and (d) assessment of all activities carried out.

83. In order to ensure better coordination between the National Commission and the provincial commissions, Angola trained local experts in weapons management techniques in 2010. It also developed an information programme on arms control, designed so that all data on small arms and light weapons (destruction, forced collection, gathering, etc.) would be available.

84. The new legal and institutional framework in the Republic of Angola necessitated a review of the preliminary drafts of laws on weapons for defence, hunting and recreation. The programme of disarmament of the civilian population also reported that a third international seminar was held with the main objective of permitting an exchange of views among various actors including politicians, journalists, religious leaders and scientists on their contribution in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and promoting a culture of non-violence.

85. With regard to regional cooperation, the National Commission works with the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and the United Nations. On the bilateral level, the Ministry of Justice of Brazil invited Angola to share its experience in disarmament of the civilian population. Joint operations are also conducted with Namibia for the collection of weapons by the police forces of the two countries along their common border.

86. Furthermore, the National Commission conducted a study on the impact of weapons on Angolan society. A reduction in crimes committed with firearms has been reported. Initially planned to last two years (2008 to 2010), the programme for civilian disarmament was renewed for two more years because of its success.

87. To summarize, between 2008 and 2010, 77,585 weapons were turned in voluntarily, and 42,008 cartridges were discovered and deactivated. Almost 329,729 rounds of ammunition and 125,839 explosives were destroyed.

88. The Committee also welcomed the existence in the Republic of Burundi since 29 April 2006 of a national commission to disarm civilians and combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The disarmament of the civilian population is a challenge for the country's stability. The Committee thus welcomed the fact that over three years, the Burundian authorities had gathered close to 80,000 small arms out of an estimated 100,000 held by the civilian population.

89. In addition, with the assistance of the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, the Republic of Burundi launched the process of marking and computerizing the records of weapons belonging to the defence and security forces, and destroying obsolete weapons and ammunition. Over 9,000 police weapons have already been marked and computerization of army weapons is being finalized.

90. Rehabilitation of armouries and strengthening of the system of storage for small arms and light weapons are under way. As for weapons destruction sites, Burundi had a dismantling workshop for excess and obsolete small arms and light weapons. Nearly 500,000 explosive devices and over 9,000 rifles have been destroyed.

91. Burundi also adopted a law on small arms and light weapons on 28 August 2009. A decree implementing this law issued on 7 October 2010 established the Standing Committee to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Burundi has also had a national focal point on small arms and light weapons since 2003. A national plan of action for control and management of small arms and light weapons and civilian disarmament that will extend from 2009 to 2014 is also in the process of being adopted.

92. After the establishment of the national strategy, a National Commission on civilian disarmament and combating proliferation of small arms and light weapons was established for a renewable two-year period with a view to completing the collection of all weapons of war held by the civilian population. From 19 to 25 October 2009, the National Commission conducted a national campaign to raise awareness and for voluntary exchange of weapons for tools for reintegration into the community. It resulted in the collection of slightly over 2,000 rifles, over 15,000 explosives, grenades, mortar shells and rockets, and over 240,000 cartridges.

93. In addition, in implementing the relevant provisions of the Nairobi Protocol on small arms and light weapons, Burundi is participating in a regional project on regulation of brokering in that area executed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. This project is aimed at establishing an inventory of weapons brokers in participating countries and developing and installing an electronic registry of legal brokers.

94. The Committee noted that in the Central African Republic, on the basis of Decree No. 06.280 of 1 September 2006, the Government instituted a National Commission to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and for disarmament and reintegration. This National Commission is part of the Office of the President of the Republic and is composed of two subcommissions, one on small arms and light weapons and one on demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

95. With the assistance of Japanese cooperation, between 2007 and 2009 the Government implemented the small arms and light weapons control and reduction

project. To date it has led to the collection of 427 weapons and 120,000 rounds of ammunition from civilians under the "arms for development" strategy.

96. Regarding the database on small arms and light weapons, the Central African Republic received a machine for marking weapons from the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons. There are plans for a team of experts from the Centre to go to Bangui from 6 to 9 December 2010 to provide training for national experts in the operation of this machine. In addition, a new law initiated by the National Commission is being studied by the Government, and will enter into force once the Parliament has endorsed it.

97. With regard to the reform of the security sector begun in April 2008, the Central African Government continues to make efforts to advance the process, which has currently reached the medium-term activities stage. These activities require significant investments as well as financial support from partners.

98. The Committee further took note that in the Republic of the Congo, a National Commission for the coordination of policies to combat proliferation of small arms and light weapons had been established. The Government was also working to build the capacity of security institutions to control small arms and light weapons. In accordance with the ongoing reform of the defence and security system, several weapons magazines are in the modernization phase. Moreover, the training of managers of armouries is being given particular emphasis.

99. Congo is also promoting transparency in the control of small arms and light weapons through the establishment of an arms registry and a database. The authorities have also made efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation on the circulation of small arms and light weapons, in particular through the activities of the joint security commission established in cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

100. The strategy to combat the circulation of small arms and light weapons has led to a significant reduction in the number of illegally held weapons. In this context, among the methods employed was voluntary disarmament, which led to the collection of nearly 618 weapons and 123,086 rounds of ammunition between July 2008 and July 2009. In the same vein, in 2009 the Government conducted a buy-back programme for weapons of war in Pool Department that resulted in the collection of 3,854 firearms, 696 bladed weapons and 176,093 rounds of ammunition of all calibres as well as explosives, all of which were handed over to the public authorities to be destroyed.

101. In 2010, no activities were conducted because of lack of funding. On the other hand, forced disarmament conducted by the police forces from 2000 to 2007 enabled 2,000 small arms and light weapons to be collected. Through their activities, forest rangers were also able to remove close to 40 weapons from poachers, which were all turned over to the police forces in 2005.

102. With regard to the reintegration of former combatants, four programmes conducted in the Congo made a significant contribution to the country's social and political stabilization. The International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reintegrated 8,019 former combatants in 2001, with a 72 per cent success rate. The demobilization and reintegration programme conducted with support from the World Bank between 2002 and 2005

allowed 9,000 former combatants to be reintegrated, with a success rate of 72.43 per cent.

103. As for the Arms for Development Collection Programme conducted with support from UNDP and the European Union which is currently under way, in 2007 it led to the reintegration of 1,991 former combatants. Although the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme under the multi-country programme set a goal of the reintegration of 35,000 former combatants between 2007 and 2009, it could not be pursued for financial reasons.

104. Overall between 2002 and 2010, with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, the Government of the Republic of the Congo was able to collect and destroy around 8,244 firearms, 696 bladed weapons and 304,818 rounds of ammunition and explosives. It was also able to identify 50,000 former combatants and reintegrate 36,000 of them, and to recruit 250 into the armed forces of the Republic of the Congo.

105. On the regulatory level, certain relevant legislation was adopted, in particular on the appointment of the Permanent Secretary of the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Reduction of Armed Violence. On the legislative level, a bill on small arms and light weapons was submitted to the National Assembly for adoption before promulgation by the Head of State.

106. For its part, in 2010 the Democratic Republic of the Congo destroyed nearly 106,629 small arms and light weapons and 672 tons of ammunition and explosives of various calibres under 100 mm.

107. On 21 August 2010, a ceremony marking the symbolic destruction of the 100,000th weapon was held in conjunction with the official presentation of three weapons marking machines given to the competent authorities by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

108. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported significant progress in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. In that regard, 2,694 zones known or suspected to be mined were identified. In addition, 3,296 landmines, 137,592 unexploded devices and 1,438,100 explosives of various calibres were destroyed. Moreover, 6,690,416 square metres were de-mined, while 2,145,628 individuals were made aware of the dangers of mines and 15,251 education sessions on mine-related risks were held. In parallel, nearly 2,411 mine victims received multiple forms of assistance.

109. Turning to the Republic of Chad, the Committee took note of the information provided by the Chadian delegation concerning the problem posed by the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons in the country, due in part to the wars and unrest it had experienced between 2006 and 2008.

110. In that context, the Committee commended the weapons recovery and collection operations conducted by the authorities through the National Disarmament Commission established in 2008.

111. It also welcomed the definitive eradication of the phenomenon of child soldiers in Chad, as well as the rallying of hundreds of former rebels on 12 November 2010, who were all disarmed and brought to the Moussoro Education Centre.

Briefing by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

112. The Committee welcomed the convening in New York from 14 to 18 June 2010 of the fourth biennial meeting of States on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. During the fourth biennial meeting, the participants stressed, inter alia, the need to enhance cooperation and coordination among customs, border control agencies and the police, and within and between States, and encouraged States to enact laws as appropriate and to genuinely strengthen legislation and regulations in order to tighten border controls.

113. With respect to the process of elaborating and negotiating an arms trade treaty, and pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2012 Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was held in New York from 12 to 23 July 2010. At that time, the Preparatory Committee made recommendations on the elements that would be needed to attain an effective and balanced legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

114. Regarding the efforts to combat nuclear proliferation, the first Conference of the Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone was held on 4 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It should be noted that all of the States members of the Committee have signed the Pelindaba Treaty, but only four — Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Rwanda — have ratified it. The Committee encouraged the other member States to ratify that important legal instrument.

115. In addition, a Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 23 to 28 May 2010. At the Conference, the Parties adopted an action plan on the three pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They also adopted recommendations on steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

116. A high-level meeting of the Conference on Disarmament was held on 24 September 2010 in New York to discuss the revitalization of the Conference. The Committee took note of the deliberations and commended Cameroon on its active participation in the Conference, particularly in its capacity as its President.

117. In the context of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee welcomed the activities undertaken by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Committee established by the Security Council to monitor and promote the implementation of that important resolution, including in Africa. With respect to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Committee welcomed the fact that one of its members had been the latest State to ratify the Treaty. That was the Central African Republic, which deposited its instruments of ratification on 26 May 2010. The Committee encouraged the other member States to ratify this Treaty.

118. Lastly, on 28 October 2010 the First Committee of the General Assembly adopted for the first time a resolution entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". The resolution encourages States, inter alia, to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, regional and subregional levels.

VII. Promoting peace and combating crime in Central Africa: maritime piracy in Central Africa

119. The Committee closely followed the statement by the Republic of Cameroon on maritime piracy, which represents a challenge to the security and economy of the subregion and a threat to peace and security for the entire international community.

120. The Committee reiterated its concern at the continued acts of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and strongly condemned the recent attacks, in particular against Cameroon.

121. In this regard, the Committee welcomed the development and progressive implementation by ECCAS of a counter-piracy strategy in Central Africa. It also took note of the progress achieved in implementing the Yaoundé Agreement of 6 May 2009 between ECCAS, the Republic of Cameroon, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on securing the vital maritime interests of the ECCAS States and zone D of the Gulf of Guinea.

122. The Committee welcomed the institutional and operational measures taken individually and collectively by the States involved. It expressed satisfaction at the continued operation of joint patrols by some States since the signing, under the auspices of ECCAS, of the first maritime security plan (SECMAR) and the launching of the multinational coordination centre in Douala.

123. The Committee urged the ECCAS Secretariat to establish and put into operation the Centre régional de sécurisation maritime de l'Afrique centrale in Pointe-Noire, Congo, pursuant to the decision taken by the fourteenth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, held in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 October 2009.

124. The Committee again recommended that ECCAS should organize an international conference on maritime piracy in Central Africa, bringing together all the States members of the Committee, donors and other international stakeholders. The Committee also recommended that counter-piracy measures should be enhanced by including the project of the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa to secure the waters of the Gulf of Guinea, specifically through the deployment of coastguards. The Committee further recommended that consultations on the matter between the secretariats of ECCAS and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, which had already been agreed upon, should take place promptly.

125. The Committee thanked the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for bringing to its attention the counter-piracy initiatives being undertaken in other regions of the world.

VIII. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009)

126. The Committee reaffirmed the complementary nature of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) and emphasized

that these resolutions are essential tools for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and for peacebuilding and reconstruction in Central Africa.

127. The Committee expressed regret that women and children account for the vast majority of those who are adversely affected by armed conflict and condemned the targeting of women and children by combatants and the infliction on them of all manner of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including sexual violence.

128. The Committee welcomed the efforts by member States to implement all Security Council resolutions relating to the link between women, peace and armed conflict, including through the adoption of specific national action plans. In that connection, the Committee welcomed the establishment by the Congolese authorities of the Comité national des femmes pour la paix (National Committee of Women for Peace). It also welcomed the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner for the reintegration of ex-combatants and the Congolese Ministry for the Promotion and Integration of Women in Development in adopting measures to ensure the involvement of women victims of armed conflict, the reintegration of girls involved in armed conflict, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

129. The Committee reiterated its encouragement to member States that had not yet done so to:

- Designate national focal points on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) from among the ministries responsible for matters of peace and security, including the ministry of foreign affairs, the ministry of the interior or of security, and the ministry of defence;
- Include women in official delegations taking part in international and regional conferences on arms control and disarmament;
- Include women in national commissions to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- Submit annual reports on the implementation of the four Security Council resolutions in question; and
- Adopt programmes of action for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the related Security Council resolutions.

130. In addition, the Committee noted with interest the events organized by the United Nations in October 2010 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

131. The Committee also noted the achievements of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). In that connection, the Committee welcomed the support of the Conference Secretariat in launching national plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. A subregional seminar for the consolidation of national action plans had also been organized in conjunction with the non-governmental organization Femmes Africa Solidarité. Furthermore, activities had been conducted with parliamentarians, traditional chiefs, women's organizations and police forces to promote

understanding of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region protocol on sexual violence.

132. With respect to Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), the Committee welcomed the commitment of the Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, through the adoption of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, to preventing and suppressing sexual violence, henceforth recognized as a war crime by the Conference.

IX. Briefings by United Nations offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa

133. The Committee noted with interest the briefing by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic and welcomed its contribution to the efforts to strengthen peace and security in that country.

134. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the quality of support that BINUCA had provided to the Central African Republic since its establishment, under its mandate in the areas of governance, the successful holding of elections, the conduct of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations, and the implementation of security sector reform.

135. In that respect, in addition to the steps already taken, the Committee welcomed the Office's commitment to support the national independent commission for the review of the Code of Good Conduct drafted in 2005, as the organization of election dates for 2011 proceeds.

136. Similarly, the Committee noted the key role played by BINUCA, as Chair of the steering committee of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in the Central African Republic, in overseeing and coordinating all activities involved in planning and conducting the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

137. The Committee also encouraged BINUCA to continue its close cooperation with ECCAS, and in particular with MICOPAX, which had been given a number of mandates under the framework document adopted on 20 November 2008 in Libreville, Gabon, on the launching of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

138. The Committee was also informed of the opening of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon, on 1 January 2011, pursuant to the letter dated 30 August 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

139. The Committee welcomed this information and the preparations under way to open the office, and promised its full support.

140. The Committee urged the African Group of Ambassadors to the United Nations in New York to take the necessary action in the appropriate United Nations bodies to ensure that the office for Central Africa opens as planned in January 2011.

141. Lastly, the Committee welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and the Central African States and encouraged all United Nations offices and

peacekeeping missions in the subregion to continue providing multifaceted assistance to the States members of the Committee with a view to ensuring their stabilization and sustainable development.

X. Report of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

142. The Committee took note with interest of the progress report submitted by the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. It welcomed the progress made by the Centre in achieving its targets for the promotion of democracy and good governance; countering discrimination; combating impunity; the enhancement of national systems for the protection of human rights; and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

143. The Committee encouraged the Centre to continue providing assistance to Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society, intergovernmental organizations in the subregion and United Nations country teams to help consolidate achievements in human rights and democracy.

144. As regards the promotion of democracy and good governance, the Committee commended the Centre for, inter alia, organizing training sessions for journalists, parliamentarians and electoral management bodies. These sessions were aimed at building the capacities of stakeholders involved in promoting democracy and supporting the electoral process in a professional and responsible manner with due regard for human rights.

145. The Committee also welcomed the initiatives taken by the Centre to combat all forms of discrimination in Central Africa, particularly discrimination against migrant workers and members of their families. In that regard, the Committee took note of the subregional dialogue on migration and human rights organized by the Centre in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 6 to 8 December 2010 as a forum for the exchange of ideas between Governments and civil society.

146. The Committee took note of the Centre's involvement in combating human trafficking through the implementation of the multilateral agreement and joint plan of action adopted in 2006 between ECOWAS and ECCAS. The Committee recommended that the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, should be invited to the thirty-second ministerial meeting to give a briefing on the problem.

147. With respect to combating impunity, the Committee noted the organization by the Centre, in cooperation with the French and Swiss Governments, of a second regional conference on the theme of "transitional justice: a path to reconciliation and building a lasting peace", held in November 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

148. On the enhancement of national human rights protection systems and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms, the Committee was pleased that almost all States in the subregion had actively participated in the universal periodic review process of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

149. The Committee also commended Cameroon for the A-status accreditation for compliance with the Paris Principles granted to its national commission. It

encouraged the other member States to continue their efforts to achieve that accreditation for their respective national institutions from the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. The aim of the Paris Principles is to ensure the independence, proper functioning and effectiveness of national institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

150. Lastly, the Committee reiterated its support for the Centre's activities and expressed satisfaction with the work carried out during the period under review.

XI. Report by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the institutional evolution of the subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, including ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), and of non-aggression and mutual assistance agreements, and the Central African multinational force (FOMAC)

151. The Committee took note of the briefing by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on the development of its structures and mechanisms for peace, security and stability.

152. Concerning the development of institutional arrangements within ECCAS, including the instruments of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), the Committee noted with satisfaction the ongoing operationalization of the Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism, which is currently in the structural enhancement phase. The Committee also took note of the development of the regional standby brigade, particularly with the "Kwanza 2010" multinational and multidimensional exercise conducted in Cabo Ledo, Angola, from 22 May to 10 June 2010. The exercise enabled the African Union and ECCAS to guarantee that the Central African multinational force (FOMAC) meets the current standards.

153. Significant progress has also been made in crisis management and peacebuilding through the activities of MICOPAX1, the deployment of ECCAS military observers under the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and troop rotation in the integrated police unit. Similar advances have also been made in the promotion and protection of human rights and in conflict prevention, particularly with the development of election observation missions in Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe.

154. In addition, the Committee commended ECCAS for setting up the network of Central African parliamentarians and establishing the Committee of Ambassadors of member States with a mandate that includes issues of peace and security.

155. With respect to the institutional arrangements for the perimeter of ECCAS, the Committee welcomed not only the implementation by ECCAS of measures to combat piracy in the Gulf of Guinea but also the increased participation by all ECCAS member States in the Committee of Central African Criminal Police Chiefs, which operates with the support of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

156. The Committee encouraged ECCAS to continue to build its own capacities and develop its strategic partnerships with national, regional and international stakeholders in the areas of arms control, disarmament, peace and security in Central Africa.

XII. Review of the financial situation of the Committee

157. The Committee noted with interest the briefing by the Secretary on the financial situation of the Committee and expressed satisfaction that the Chairman had sent an information note to all the member States on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

158. The Committee expressed thanks to the Republic of Angola, the Republic of the Congo and the Gabonese Republic for honouring their commitments by making voluntary contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund pursuant to the Libreville Declaration. The Committee also took note of the provisions made by the other member States to include a contribution to the Trust Fund in their next budget cycle.

159. The Committee encouraged all member States to strive to make regular voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, as set out in the Libreville Declaration. It also called upon other United Nations Member States and donors to make financial contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund.

XIII. Date and place of the next meeting

160. The Committee decided to hold its thirty-second ministerial meeting in Sao Tome, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, in March 2011.

161. The Committee recommended that the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Secretariat should continue their consultations regarding the exact dates.

XIV. Other matters

162. The member States recommended that the item on briefings by United Nations offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa should be broadened to allow the other bodies that have observer status with the Committee to report on their contributions to peace and security in the subregion.

163. The Committee welcomed the establishment of UN-Women and expressed its commitment to work closely with the new United Nations entity on enhancing gender policy and strengthening the implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant Security Council resolutions.

164. The Committee congratulated the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on their election to the Executive Board of UN-Women.

165. The Committee requested the Secretariat to consider what status ECCAS could have within the Committee, other than observer status, which it currently has. In that connection, the Committee requested the Secretariat to report on the outcome of that reflection at the thirty-second ministerial meeting.

166. The Committee took note of the special summit meeting on the illegal exploitation of natural resources organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on 15 December 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia. The illegal exploitation of natural resources is one of the root causes of the repeated crises that disrupt peace and security in Central Africa.

167. Following the attack against a Cameroonian oil platform by two unidentified vessels on the night of 16 to 17 November 2010, which caused five deaths and significant material damage, the Committee:

- expressed its deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and to the Government and people of Cameroon;
- strongly condemned these barbaric and criminal acts of violence;
- called for vigilance and for community and regional engagement; and
- requested the solidarity and comprehensive support of the international community to combat the scourge of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

XV. Adoption of the report of the thirty-first ministerial meeting

168. The Committee adopted the present report on 18 November 2010. It congratulated the Secretariat on its professionalism and the quality of its work.

169. The Committee reiterated its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the revitalization of its work, as well as for his contribution to peace and security in Central Africa.

C. Expression of thanks

170. The following expression of thanks was read out:

"We, the representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, assembled for the thirty-first ministerial meeting, held from 15 to 19 November 2010 in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo;

"Reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of peace, security and stability that are so vital to our respective peoples and to the socio-economic development of our subregion;

"Commend the individual and collective efforts of our countries to achieve peace, security, stability and development;

"Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, brotherhood and mutual trust which has prevailed throughout our work; and

"Express our sincere thanks and deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, and to the Government and people of the Congo, for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality we have received during our stay in the Congo."

Done in Brazzaville, 18 November 2010

Annex

Implementation Plan for the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly

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Introduction

The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly was adopted on 30 April 2010 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (hereinafter "the Committee").

Upon adoption of the Sao Tome Initiative in May 2007 by the Committee's 11 member States (the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was tasked with drafting the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, what is known as the Kinshasa Convention and a plan to implement the Convention. The Regional Centre drafted this Implementation Plan following a procedure agreed to by the Committee.

In accordance with the decision taken at the Committee's thirtieth ministerial meeting, the Regional Centre finalized the draft Implementation Plan for consideration and adoption by the 11 States members of the Committee at its thirty-first ministerial meeting.

The draft Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention includes a series of activities incumbent on the 11 States members of the Committee, the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the depositary of the Convention, namely, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Plan is structured around the chapters and articles of the Convention:

I. Purpose and definitions;

II. Transfers;

III. Possession of small arms and light weapons by civilians;

IV. Manufacture, repair and distribution;

V. Operational procedures;

VI. Transparency and exchange of information;

VII. Harmonization of national legislation;

VIII. Institutional arrangements and implementation; and

IX. General and final provisions.

The implementation of each chapter and article will be based on three types of measures:

1. institutional measures;

2. regulatory measures; and

3. operational measures.

Chapter I. Purpose and definitions

Chapter II. Transfers

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for overseeing transfers

Regulatory measures

(b) create a form for requesting the authorization of transfers

(c) create an end-user certificate

(d) define the procedure for verifying end-user certificates

(e) adopt or amend national legislation and implementing regulations on the authorization of transfers

(f) define the administrative procedures required to request the authorization of transfers

Operational measures

(g) train officials involved in monitoring transfers

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for overseeing transfers

Regulatory measures

(b) support the adoption or amendment of national legislation and implementing regulations on the authorization of transfers

(c) develop and introduce guidelines on creating forms to request the authorization of transfers

(d) develop and introduce guidelines on creating end-user certificates

Operational measures

(e) support the training of officials involved in monitoring transfers

Chapter III. Possession by civilians

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for controlling the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians

Regulatory measures

(b) establish administrative and legal procedures on the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians

(c) define the procedures for verifying permits to carry weapons

(d) ensure that visitors' certificates are issued in line with harmonized measures

(e) adopt and clarify the implementing regulations on the bearing of weapons by civilians

(f) disseminate national legislation pertaining to the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(g) adopt the standardized subregional procedure for notification and follow-up in cases of lost or stolen weapons

Operational measures

(h) train officials involved in controlling the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(i) raise public awareness of issues related to the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians, including procedures for the voluntary surrender of weapons

(j) include in the national database information on licences or authorizations to possess, carry or trade light weapons

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for the possession of and trade in small arms and light weapons by civilians

Regulatory measures

(b) develop and introduce a standard template for visitors' certificates

(c) define and enact procedures for verifying visitors' certificates

(d) harmonize and enact administrative procedures and measures for the granting or withdrawal of authorizations for the possession of light weapons

(e) develop and introduce norms and standards for the proper management of stocks of weapons and ammunition possessed by civilians, particularly manufacturers and dealers

(f) support the adoption and implementation of national laws and regulations on small arms and light weapons

(g) develop, disseminate and implement guidelines on creating visitors' certificates, permits and licences

(h) develop and disseminate a guide to keeping records on the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(i) create a subregional common system to verify the validity of licences issued to civilians at the national level to possess, bear, use and trade in light weapons

Operational measures

(j) support the training of officials responsible for controlling the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(k) assist States in raising awareness among civilians of issues pertaining to the possession, bearing, use and trade of light weapons by civilians

Chapter IV. Manufacture, repair and distribution

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for overseeing the manufacture, repair and assembly of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and for licensing and monitoring/inspecting their manufacture

Regulatory measures

(b) issue licences or permits to assemble and repair

(c) implement the legislation regulating weapons

Operational measures

(d) establish production quotas to limit manufacturing

(e) conduct an inventory of local manufacturers

(f) establish record-keeping procedures regarding local manufacturers

(g) obtain the materials required for marking locally manufactured weapons

(h) equip and train local manufacturers, including on marking

(i) conduct inspections of official weapons marking sites

(j) draft and submit to the ECCAS Secretariat an annual report on local manufacturing

(k) educate local manufacturers about the legislative and regulatory framework in force

(l) train officials responsible for monitoring local manufacturing

(m) initiate programmes to retrain local manufacturers or incorporate them in income-generating activities

(n) include information on local manufacturing in the national database

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for: overseeing manufacture, repair and assembly; licensing manufacturers; and monitoring/inspecting manufacturing

Regulatory measures

(b) define the methods, regulations and standards for marking

(c) define, in coordination with States parties, the procedures for the exchange of information between national databases and the subregional database

Operational measures

(d) record in the subregional database on small arms and light weapons the information sent by the competent authorities in States parties concerning local manufacturers and manufacturing

(e) support the procurement by States parties of the materials required for marking locally manufactured weapons

(f) support training for local manufacturers on marking weapons and ammunition

(g) urge States parties to mark weapons upon manufacture

(h) urge States parties to adopt policies and strategies to reduce and/or limit the local manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition

Chapter V. Operational procedures

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for implementing the Convention, including activities related to brokering, marking, tracing, registration, management and security of stockpiles, destruction, border control and public awareness

Regulatory measures

Marking

(b) devise a system for conventional marking and for security marking

Brokering

(c) develop legislative and/or regulatory measures on brokers and brokering

Management and security of stockpiles

(d) adopt or amend and implement disciplinary measures against officials involved in the theft, diversion or loss of weapons and ammunition

(e) apply the ECCAS Secretariat standards for managing and securing stockpiles

(f) implement a procedure for monitoring and evaluating the condition and management of official stockpiles and civilian stocks

(g) take measures to ensure the physical security of stockpiles

Tracing

(h) apply the standards developed by the ECCAS Secretariat for storing and tracing weapons and ammunition

Registration and destruction

(i) apply the ECCAS Secretariat standards for registering, collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

Operational measures

Brokering

(j) conduct an inventory of legal brokers who are active in the country

(k) equip and train officials responsible for overseeing brokering activities

Management and security of stockpiles

(l) conduct inspections of official sites used for storing or stocking

(m) equip and train officials responsible for overseeing the management and security of stockpiles

(n) conduct an inventory of official stockpiles of State weapons

Registration and destruction

(o) equip and train officials responsible for registering, collecting or seizing and destroying obsolete, surplus or illicit weapons and ammunition

(p) determine weapons destruction sites and identify and destroy obsolete, surplus or illicit weapons

(q) prepare an annual report on the condition and management of stockpiles

Marking and border control

(r) obtain adequate equipment for the agencies responsible for marking and border control

(s) equip and train officials responsible for marking and border control

(t) organize joint patrols of borders

Public awareness

(u) develop and implement a national public awareness programme

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for implementing the Convention, including activities related to brokering, marking,

tracing, registration, management and security of stockpiles, destruction, border control and public awareness

Regulatory measures

Brokering

(b) establish among States parties common criteria and terms to define the occupation of broker

(c) harmonize the individual licences issued to brokers to conduct business

(d) harmonize the individual licences issued for each brokering transaction

(e) develop guidelines or a practical guide to brokering

Marking

(f) develop guidelines or a practical guide to marking

(g) propose a standard model for marking, taking into account the specifications for conventional marking and security marking

Registration, destruction and border control

(h) disseminate the technical information available on collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

(i) develop and introduce standards for registering, collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

(j) determine the appropriate indicators for collecting information on cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons and ammunition

Management and security of stockpiles

(k) develop a practical guide to managing and securing stockpiles

Public awareness

(l) develop a communications and advocacy manual on small arms and light weapons

Tracing

(m) establish a subregional procedure for the exchange of information between competent authorities on cross-border traffic of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, including within the framework of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism

(n) draft and introduce standards for documenting and tracing weapons and ammunition

Operational measures

Marking and tracing

(o) disseminate international standards on marking and tracing

(p) support the training of officials responsible for marking and tracing

(q) support community disarmament projects conducted through national initiatives or by external partners

Collection and destruction

(r) support the training of officials responsible for destroying weapons and ammunition

Registration

(s) disseminate international standards on managing, registering, securing and identifying weapons stocks in the possession of armed and security forces

(t) support the training of officials responsible for registering, managing, storing, identifying and securing stocks

Management and security of stockpiles

(u) develop a practical guide on managing and securing stockpiles

Border control

(v) provide technical and financial support to States parties in procuring appropriate equipment for their border control agencies

(w) support the training of officials responsible for controlling borders

(x) urge States to cooperate in their efforts to control borders

Public awareness

(y) develop and implement a subregional communications and advocacy strategy on small arms and light weapons

(z) develop and introduce a standard annual report model for States parties on the condition and management of stockpiles

(aa) develop public awareness materials

Chapter VI. Transparency and exchange of information

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for hosting and managing the national electronic database

Regulatory measures

(b) implement procedures to exchange information with the databases of other States parties and the subregional database created by the ECCAS Secretariat

(c) prepare a report on small arms and light weapons and submit it to the United Nations

Operational measures

(d) create and launch a national databank on small arms and light weapons

(e) acquire the material and human resources required to manage the national database

(f) record relevant information in the national database, including on transfers

(g) submit relevant data to the subregional database and share data on possession by civilians

(h) prepare an annual report on management of the database

(i) prepare an annual report on transfers

(j) submit data on transfers to the subregional database

(k) establish and maintain cooperation with external partners on arms transfer issues

(l) raise awareness among all competent national bodies of the need for internal cooperation within States

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for hosting and managing national electronic databases

Regulatory measures

(b) determine, in coordination with States parties, the process by which the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations will be established and managed and the areas they will cover

(c) define and introduce the procedures for exchanging information between the databases of States parties

(d) develop and introduce a practical guide on recordkeeping using databases and registers

(e) determine the type of software and equipment to be used by States parties to establish their national databases and provide such material accordingly

(f) obtain the materials required to establish the two subregional databases

(g) develop and introduce a template for preparing reports

Operational measures

(h) support States parties in obtaining the technical resources required to establish national databases and conduct training at the national level

(i) create and operationalize the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the subregional database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations

(j) obtain the materials and human resources required to manage the two subregional databases

(k) develop and submit an annual report to the heads of State and Government on the management of the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the subregional database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations, including information on end-user certificates, transfers, licences, brokers, purchases and manufacturers

(l) in the interest of strengthening implementation of the Convention, establish dialogue with international weapons manufacturers and suppliers, including through official visits to their headquarters, including those of the Wassenaar Arrangement and other suppliers

(m) officially inform the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement and other international weapons suppliers of the adoption and signing of the Convention

(n) sign memorandums of understanding with the Wassenaar Arrangement and other international weapons suppliers

(o) assist States parties with drafting reporting

(p) consolidate States parties' annual reports on transfers

(q) urge States parties to establish a system for mutual legal assistance on issues related to: sources and supply routes of weapons, means of transport and financial support available; criminal groups and networks of illicit trafficking in weapons; and the conviction of individuals or legal entities involved in illicit activities linked to small arms and light weapons.

Chapter VII. Harmonization of national legislation

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create or build the capacity of the national bodies responsible for implementing legislation

Regulatory measures

(b) amend, update, harmonize and adopt national legislation to bring it in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention

Operational measures

(c) conduct a review of national laws regulating small arms and light weapons in the context of the Convention

(d) educate the authorities and defence and security forces on the provisions of the Convention

(e) increase the visibility of the body responsible for implementing the Convention and strengthen its policymaking capacity

(f) enhance the effective functioning of inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to control small arms and light weapons, corruption, money-laundering and drugs

(g) disseminate, including through public awareness campaigns, the laws and implementing regulations on the trade, bearing, manufacture, use and possession of small arms and light weapons

(h) disseminate the laws and implementing regulations regarding civil and/or criminal penalties against corruption related to the manufacture, traffic, trade, possession and use of illicit small arms and light weapons

(i) prepare an annual report on the implementation of national laws and regulations on small arms and light weapons

(j) strengthen cooperation between States in the fight against corruption

(k) train officials to fight against corruption and crime

(l) cooperate with other States parties with a view to incorporating anti-corruption measures into national legislation

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for implementing legislation

(b) institute the exchange of information between the security agencies of States parties to enhance the fight against small arms and light weapons and improve security

Regulatory measures

(c) develop a guide to harmonizing national legislation on small arms and light weapons

(d) institute the exchange of information between State security agencies in order to strengthen the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and improve subregional security

(e) adopt and implement in States parties international standards on the establishment and functioning of national commissions on small arms and light weapons

Operational measures

(f) disseminate the Convention and its relevant provisions to States parties

(g) harmonize legal and administrative policies and practices against small arms and light weapons, drugs and money-laundering

(h) organize discussion sessions on threats to regional security

(i) provide technical assistance to States parties in drafting, revising and disseminating national legislation on small arms and light weapons in line with national and international obligations

(j) support training and awareness-raising activities for the relevant national and subregional actors on the fight against corruption related to the manufacture, traffic, trade, possession and use of illicit small arms and light weapons

(k) support dissemination of national legislation on small arms and light weapons

Chapter VIII. Institutional arrangements and implementation

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create or build the capacity of the national body (national commission) responsible for coordinating and implementing the Convention in line with international standards

Regulatory measures

(b) if necessary, develop and adopt an act establishing the national commission

(c) create a national plan to control small arms and light weapons based on an impact study

Operational measures

(d) Provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention

(e) develop a strategy document for mobilizing resources

(f) create a budget line in the annual budget and provide material resources to the national commission

(g) train members of the national commission, the armed and security forces, and civil society organizations on issues related to small arms and light weapons

(h) conduct surveys and studies on the impact of small arms and light weapons on the security of the State and the population

(i) coordinate national forums to exchange views and raise awareness of issues relating to small arms and light weapons

(j) provide the ECCAS Secretariat with the financial, technical and human resources to implement the Convention

(k) submit an annual report to the ECCAS Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create a unit on small arms and light weapons to work in coordination with the Secretariat of the Committee and States parties to implement the Convention

(b) establish (where they are not already in place) or build the capacity of national bodies (national commissions) responsible for coordinating implementation of the Convention

(c) create and launch the Group of Independent Experts

(d) formalize relationships with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs (subregional organization of police forces) and the World Customs Organization

Regulatory measures

(e) develop a resource mobilization strategy

Operational measures

(f) present, at a Committee meeting, a high-priority subregional programme to implement the Convention

(g) provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention

(h) recruit staff for the small arms and light weapons unit

(i) provide financial and material support to the national commissions

(j) support the training of members of national commissions, including on project planning and management

(k) support the establishment of a network of civil society organizations, provide them with material and financial support and organize training sessions for them

(l) organize meetings at which national commissions of States parties can share experiences

(m) create a programme to build the capacity of national commissions and civil society

(n) coordinate follow-up and evaluation visits to States parties

(o) coordinate regular meetings to support dialogue and coordination with civil society organizations

(p) mobilize the financial resources required to implement the Convention

(q) conduct informational visits within the United Nations system and to the African Union

(r) publish and disseminate information, studies and research on small arms and light weapons

(s) create a framework document to assist States parties in preparing annual reports on implementation

(t) prepare an annual report on implementation of the Convention

(u) provide the Group of Independent Experts with adequate financial and administrative resources

(v) encourage cooperation between national bodies

(w) cooperate with the group of experts

(x) map progress on the creation and functioning of national commissions

(y) promote the signing and ratification of the Convention by States parties

Chapter IX. General and final provisions

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Regulatory and operational measures

(a) sign, ratify, promulgate and implement the Convention

(b) mobilize civil society support for implementing and ensuring compliance with the Convention

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Operational measures

(a) devise a strategy for advocating the ratification and entry into force of the Convention

(b) conduct visits to advocate the signature, ratification and entry into force of the Convention

Functions of the depositary

In his capacity as depositary of the Convention, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall ensure the safekeeping of this Convention, receive full powers as needed and any instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and/or accession. He shall inform all States concerned of actions related to the Convention.

United Nations A/65/718

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Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 135
Joint Inspection Unit

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010

Note by the Secretary-General

1. The present note was prepared pursuant to paragraph 12 of General Assembly resolution 64/262, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chair of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB), to expedite the implementation of that resolution, "including through the expected provision of support to the Unit by the secretariats of the participating organizations for the preparation of its reports, notes and confidential letters, and the consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the Assembly, and to report to the Assembly on an annual basis on the results achieved".

2. In accordance with the statute of the Joint Inspection Unit, and in his capacity as Chair of CEB, the Secretary-General provides substantive support to the Joint Inspection Unit during the preparation as well as after completion of their reports. In accordance with the mandate of the Unit, the secretariat of CEB circulates all reports of system-wide concern to United Nations system organizations and compiles the comments received. During this process, and as a matter of normal practice, the CEB secretariat requests organizations to respond within the deadline provided in order to produce reports within the mandated time frame.

3. During the 2010 period, the CEB secretariat prepared comments for seven Joint Inspection Unit reports, including several from the programme of work of the previous year. In each case, the CEB secretariat requested organizations to comment on the final version of the report, including the methodology used and the content of the recommendations. These comments, which are issued as United Nations documents under cover of a note by the Secretary-General, reflect the overall consensus of the United Nations system, although each organization may choose to address the specific recommendations within the framework of its governing bodies.

4. In addition to circulating and commenting on Joint Inspection Unit reports of system-wide concern, the CEB secretariat continues to work very closely with the Unit on the preparation of its annual programme of work. As has become common practice, in late 2010 the CEB secretariat assisted the Unit with the process of

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prioritizing and selecting topics of interest to organizations of the United Nations system for the Joint Inspection Unit 2011 programme of work, and provided substantive input regarding specific proposals.

5. Furthermore, the CEB secretariat continues to maintain a constant dialogue with the Joint Inspection Unit to ensure a smooth report preparation process and to identify methods for enhancing the value of the Unit's reports. One example of increased collaboration was the preparation of a Joint Inspection Unit report on the theme "Preparedness of United Nations system organizations for the International Public Sector Accounting Standards" (JIU/REP/2010/6), which was prepared in close coordination and consultation with the Finance and Budget Network of the High-level Committee on Management. This example is indicative of the regular participation of the networks of the High-level Committee on Management of CEB in the preparation of reports of the Joint Inspection Unit.

6. In addition, in 2010 the CEB secretariat participated in the first meeting of focal points, organized by the Joint Inspection Unit in September 2010. In addition to providing a forum for the Unit to interact with stakeholders, the event provided an opportunity for the Chief Executives Board for Coordination to share the mechanisms for report production, and encourage participating agencies to respond to requests for comments.

7. As regards organizations' consideration of and action on the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit in the light of pertinent resolutions of the General Assembly, chapter I, section E of the annual report of the Joint Inspection Unit for 2010 (A/65/34) contains detailed information about the actions taken by organizations of CEB in follow-up to recommendations of the Unit.

8. The Secretary-General will continue to pursue a closer working relationship with the Joint Inspection Unit and to encourage all organizations to respond in a timely manner and in a spirit of cooperation to requests of the Unit.

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Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2010

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report provides additional information in response to the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period ended 30 June 2010 (A/65/5 (Vol. II)). The report is submitted in accordance with paragraph 7 of General Assembly resolution 48/216 B, in which the Secretary-General was requested to report to the Assembly, at the same time as the Board of Auditors submitted its recommendations to the Assembly, on measures taken or to be taken to implement those recommendations.

The Administration has concurred with most of the Board's recommendations, and many of the comments of the Secretary-General have been duly reflected in the report of the Board. Therefore, in an effort to reduce repetition and streamline documentation, the present report provides additional comments from the Administration only where required, as well as information on the status of implementation, the office responsible, the estimated completion date and the priority for each recommendation contained in the report of the Board. In addition, the present report contains updated information on the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Board relating to prior periods that were reported by the Board, in annex II to its report, as not having been fully implemented.

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I. Introduction

1. In paragraph 7 of its resolution 48/216 B, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it on the measures that would be taken to implement the recommendations of the Board of Auditors at the same time as the report of the Board was submitted to the Assembly. Accordingly, the present report is submitted in response to the recommendations of the Board contained in its report on the accounts of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the 12-month period ended 30 June 2010 (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II).

2. In preparing the present report, account was taken of the provisions of the following General Assembly resolutions:

(a) Resolution 52/212 B (in particular paras. 2-5) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the proposals of the Board for improving the implementation of its recommendations approved by the Assembly (A/52/753, annex);

(b) Resolution 64/268, in which the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to continue to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board and the priorities for their implementation, including the office holders to be held accountable, and to provide a full explanation for delays in the implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Board.

3. With regard to prioritization, the Administration noted that the Board had categorized 21 of the 59 recommendations as "main" recommendations. While all accepted recommendations of the Board will be implemented in a timely manner, these main recommendations will be considered to be of the highest priority. The Board has reported an improvement in the rate of implementation of recommendations made for 2008/09 (44 per cent) compared with the preceding year (40 per cent). Tables 1 and 2 summarize the status of implementation of newly issued recommendations as at 25 January 2011.

Table 1
Status of implementation of main recommendations

Department responsible	*Number of recommendations*	*Not accepted*	*Implemented*	*In progress*	*Target date set*	*No target date*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support	16	1	5	10	7	3
Department of Management and Department of Field Support	3	—	1	2	2	—
Department of Management	2	—	1	1	1	—
Total	**21**	**1**	**7**	**13**	**10**	**3**

4. As indicated in table 1, of the 21 main recommendations issued by the Board, implementation is in progress for 13 recommendations, 9 of which are targeted for implementation before the end of 2011, and one for implementation in June 2014. All three main recommendations for which no target date has been set pertain to ongoing activities.

Table 2
Status of implementation of all recommendations

Department responsible	*Number of recommendations*	*Not accepted*	*Implemented*	*In progress*	*Target date set*	*No target date*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support	44	1	16	27	23	4
Department of Management and Department of Field Support	5	—	1	4	4	—
Department of Management	3	—	2	1	1	
Office of Internal Oversight Services	7	—	2	5	1	4
Total	**59**	**1**	**21**	**37**	**29**	**8**

5. As indicated in table 2, of the 59 recommendations issued, implementation is in progress for 37 recommendations, of which 28 are targeted for implementation before the end of 2011 and one is due for implementation in June 2014. Of the eight recommendations for which no target date has been set, seven pertain to ongoing activities, and implementation of one recommendation depends on external factors.

6. It should be noted that the successful implementation of the Board's recommendations is dependent on how the recommendations are formulated. For example, the recommendation in paragraph 146 of the Board's previous report (A/64/5 (Vol. II), chap. II) that: "the Administration strengthen the management and control of expendable property" is neither specific nor measurable. Thus as there is no clearly distinguishable action or actions that can be undertaken to implement the recommendation, no target date can be set, and it is unclear when the recommendation will be closed. As can be seen from the above tables, nine recommendations are ongoing. The Administration will continue to discuss these recommendations with the Board, with a view to agreeing on the specific measures that need to be taken to achieve full implementation.

II. Specific issues of concern

7. The Secretary-General has noted the specific concerns expressed by the General Assembly in resolution 64/268 regarding: (a) expendable and non-expendable property; (b) the identification of root causes of recurring recommendations; and (c) accountability of managers for implementation of recommendations. The current status of action on these items is summarized below.

Expendable and non-expendable property

8. Responsibility for property management is assigned in the financial regulations and rules to the Under-Secretary-General for Management. Authority and responsibility has, in turn, been delegated to the Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services who, in the case of peacekeeping missions, has further delegated authority and responsibility to the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support. The Assistant Secretary-General for Central Support Services has been coordinating and monitoring action taken to address the concerns raised by the Board through a series of working groups that also take into account the need for future

compliance with the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS). The Department of Field Support has vigorously addressed the specific problems highlighted in previous audits and has introduced key performance indicators and centralized monitoring to track progress. Other measures taken include:

(a) Issuance and implementation of the Property Management Manual, November 2006;

(b) Development of the Department of Field Support property management workplan and performance measurement system for property management (annual directives by the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support to all missions);

(c) Review of the regulatory framework for property management in order to streamline administrative procedures for write-off and assets transfers through a Department of Management/Department of Field Support working group;

(d) Consolidation of property management functions in 10 peacekeeping missions into property management sections;

(e) Completion of the codification of non-expendable property project, 2007;

(f) Initiation of a project for codification of expendable property;

(g) Introduction of barcode reading technology (ongoing);

(h) Issuance of Department of Field Support warehousing guidelines, 1 July 2009;

(i) Development of the guidelines on property disposal;

(j) Execution of a lean six sigma project to streamline Department of Field Support processes for assets disposal during mission liquidations;

(k) Establishment of the community of practice for property management (395 participants).

9. In each of the areas of concern raised in previous audits, significant improvements have been achieved. In particular:

(a) Physical property count: 14 out of 15 missions achieved greater than 90 per cent property count for non-expendable property compared to 8 out of 15 in 2007/08. In respect of expendable property, the property count has improved from 67 per cent in 2007/08 to 87 per cent in 2009/10;

(b) Discrepancy reconciliation of non-expendable property: 72 per cent of discrepancies detected in 2009/10 reconciled within the same reporting period, compared to 55 per cent in 2006/07;

(c) Write-off and disposal of non-expendable property: reduction in average time of disposal by commercial sale from 316 days in 2007/08 to 200 days in 2009/10 and reduction in average time for local property survey board review from 644 days in 2008/09 to 147 days in 2009/10.

10. In respect of the specific issues raised in the paragraphs under the heading of "other matters" in the audit opinion (A/65/5 (vol. II), chap. I), it should be noted that:

(a) In most of the 62,050 cases of discrepancies, the assets have been located and records are pending updating for details of location and the assigned user. This situation does not lead to any significant loss of accountability or control, nor is there any significant impact on the amounts shown in the financial statements;

(b) Of the total of $402 million of expendable property, the Department of Field Support estimates that more than 60 per cent are consumables which, under IPSAS, will be considered as consumed on acquisition and therefore will not form part of an inventory to be reported in the financial statements. Steps are also under way to prepare for disclosure in the financial statements once IPSAS is introduced.

Root causes of recurring recommendations

11. The root causes of most of the recurring audit recommendations, particularly those that highlight delays or non-compliance, include: high vacancy levels, obsolete systems, transition to new accounting standards, transition to new processes and procedures, interpretation of procedures and guidelines, and training issues. While immediate measures can be taken to ameliorate some of these, the root causes can only be fully addressed through longer-term measures, such as the replacement of current information technology systems with Umoja.

12. Further details of the measures being taken to address each of the reiterated/outstanding recommendations from previous periods are contained in part IV of the present report.

Accountability of managers

13. As can be seen in parts III and IV below, recommendations are assigned to the heads of the departments responsible for their implementation. In addition, priorities and time frames have been identified, and managers are required to explain, in the context of the present report, the actions being taken to implement the recommendations as well as the reasons for any delays. The Management Committee also follows up on outstanding recommendations. To support this follow-up, a review is undertaken of the explanations given, and, where necessary, programme managers are requested to expedite implementation and/or make adjustments to measures being taken.

III. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors

14. Set out below is the information requested by the General Assembly on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors for the financial period ended 30 June 2010. As indicated in the summary of the present report, many of the Administration's comments have already been included in the Board's report; thus, additional comments are provided below only where the Board has not reflected the Administration's comments.

A. Unliquidated obligations

Creation of unliquidated obligations

15. **In paragraph 33, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration require all missions to comply strictly with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations with respect to the criteria for the creation of obligations.**

16. The Department of Management issued 2010 year-end closing instructions to the missions specifying certain conditions under which to create obligations, to ensure that only valid obligations are created and retained in the accounts. The Department of Field Support separately followed up with detailed guidance to field missions and Headquarters cost centres to emphasize their responsibilities as certifying officers on the retention and cancellation of obligations. Emphasis was placed on the need to ensure that there is a clear binding commitment as well as reasonable certainty of delivery before an obligation is retained. It was also stressed that missions should review their budget priorities and identify obligations that are genuine expenses and financial liabilities of the United Nations, ensuring that remaining priorities do not exceed the funding allotted for the financial year. These directives to the missions were closely monitored and reviewed at Headquarters, resulting in adjustments to the obligations retained in the accounts for the period ending 30 June 2010.

17. Concerning the specific missions that were the basis of the recommendation, the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) advised that the incorrectly created obligations totalling $2.7 million were cancelled. The United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) confirmed that it has cancelled incorrectly created obligations relating to two purchase orders in the amounts of $1.58 million and $1.32 million. Accordingly, the necessary adjustments were effected in the accounts of the two missions for the period ending 30 June 2010. Furthermore, in its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) had implemented the recommendation.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

B. Assessed contributions and other accounts receivables

Long-outstanding accounts receivable balances

18. **In paragraph 38, the Board recommended that the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Department of Field Support: (a) require MONUSCO, the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) and the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) to intensify their efforts to recover all long-outstanding accounts receivable balances; and (b) assess the recoverability of long-outstanding balances and make the necessary adjusting entries in the accounts.**

19. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 39 and 40 of the Board's report. In addition, it should be noted that the Department of Management will monitor long-outstanding receivables, and, if required, make the appropriate adjustments to the accounts, in conjunction with the missions.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

C. Support account

Studies on the support account

20. **In paragraph 59, the Board recommended that the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations: (a) draw on lessons learned from the two previous studies on the support account to ensure that the proposed new study adequately addresses the development of a staffing model for the support account; and (b) carefully monitor the execution of the contract to ensure that the consultants satisfactorily deliver the outputs based on the terms of reference of the contract and to avoid further delay.**

21. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 60 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Management
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Board evaluation of the support account

22. **In paragraph 77, the Board recommended that the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support: (a) develop clear and specific criteria for posts to be funded by the support account for backstopping peacekeeping operations; and (b) require various departments that have posts funded by the support account to keep all supporting documents necessary to facilitate the evaluation of those posts and related activities.**

23. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 78 and 79 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

D. Budgeting, including results-based budgeting

Results-based budgeting: indicators of achievement and outputs

24. **In paragraph 84, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that all missions improve the results-based budgeting**

formulation process by providing training to staff concerned on a regular basis, for example, through distance teaching or other practical alternatives.

25. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 85 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Results-based budgeting: in-year monitoring of progress and performance

26. **In paragraph 93, the Board recommended that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in collaboration with the Department of Field Support, take measures to ensure that all missions regularly collect, review, compile and report the results-based-budgeting data for internal management purposes.**

27. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 94 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Other aspects of budgeting: aviation and vehicle budgets

28. **In paragraph 98, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require: (a) UNMIT to consider the reasonableness of its budget assumptions when preparing the budget for aviation; and (b) UNAMID to take into account donated vehicles when developing its vehicle budget.**

29. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 99 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Implementation of the budget for quick-impact projects

30. **In paragraph 102, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require all missions to improve the rate of implementation of quick-impact projects.**

31. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 103 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

E. Exit strategy of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

Disclosures in the financial statements on the completion of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad

32. **In paragraph 109, the Board recommended that in future, once the Security Council has approved the completion of a mission, the Administration record the closure of the mission in the financial statements, disclosing the best estimate of the financial impact.**

33. The Administration's comments are adequately reflected in paragraph 110 of the Board's report. The Administration will apply the policy when there is such a decision of the Security Council in the future.

Department responsible: Department of Management
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Monitoring delivery of the drawdown and liquidation plans

34. **In paragraph 112, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support perform an assessment to identify and document the significant risks to the delivery of the drawdown and liquidation plans. Those risks should then be subjected to review by senior management on a weekly basis.**

35. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 113 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Post-implementation review

36. **In paragraph 119, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support conduct a thorough post-implementation and lessons-learned review of the drawdown and liquidation plans for MINURCAT. The key lessons should be utilized to revise the liquidation guidance, if necessary, and to create clear guidance for the development and implementation of a drawdown plan to protect the substantive operations of closing missions and to facilitate orderly withdrawal.**

37. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 120 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

F. Non-expendable property

Physical verification and reconciliation of discrepancies

38. **In paragraph 130, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require all missions: (a) to carry out full and complete physical verifications of non-expendable property; (b) to make every effort to ascertain the reasons why assets have not been located; and (c) to expedite the process of discrepancy reconciliation to ensure that the data relating to non-expendable property are accurate.**

39. The Administration acknowledges the Board's recognition of the actions it has taken to strengthen the management of non-expendable property in order to address the Board's previously raised concerns. The Administration reiterates that these measures are successfully addressing the identified deficiencies and that performance results in the discipline of property management over the last four years are indicating a positive trend globally. As confirmed by the Board, the key performance indicator established by the Administration is a target of 100 per cent. Given the operational and security conditions on the ground, a risk tolerance rate of 10 per cent has been established as an acceptable variation from the target. Based on the above explanation, the Administration does not agree with the Board's recommendation for full and complete physical verification of non-expendable property. Mission-specific comments by the Department of Field Support on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 132 of the Board's report.

40. With regard to discrepancy identification and reconciliation, as referred to in paragraphs (b) and (c) of the recommendation, the Department's performance measurement system incorporates three specific key performance indicators. The Department has repeatedly reminded field missions to adhere to instructions for daily recording of property status and for continuous use of corporate business intelligence reports, which facilitate the detection and reconciliation of discrepancies. Field missions have introduced a standard practice whereby the Property Control and Inventory Unit prepares monthly discrepancy reports and submits them to the self-accounting units for reconciliation action. MONUSCO promulgated a standard operating procedure on the reconciliation of discrepancies that has been adopted by all field missions. Its use is enforced at the departmental level, through the issuance of the Department's workplan on property management for the financial period ending 30 June 2011. The Department's introduction of the automatic barcode reading technology during the financial period ending 30 June 2011 will expedite the reconciliation of discrepancies.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: paragraph (a) not accepted; paragraphs (b) and (c) in progress
Priority: high
Target date: paragraph (a) not applicable; paragraphs (b) and (c) second quarter of 2011

Segregation of duties

41. **In paragraph 134, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require all missions to have in place proper segregation of duties relating to non-expendable property to ensure that items are not approved,**

issued and received from stock by the same person, or consider mitigating controls where segregation of duties is not feasible.

42. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 135 of the Board's report. Further, full segregation of duties is dependent on the availability of additional resources.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Lead time in the write-off and disposal of assets

43. **In paragraph 138, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration strengthen its monitoring of the write-off and disposal of non-expendable property at missions to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to expedite all pending write-offs and disposals.**

44. The Administration has identified the key causes of delays in the processes of write-off and disposal of assets, which, in many instances, relate to: inadequate capacity to perform a proactive asset disposal function at the initial stages of a mission's life cycle; lack of property management specialists; difficulties in establishing a robust commercial sales regime associated with the length of procurement process; and unfavourable local market conditions. In the last three years, the Administration has addressed these issues in its annual directives on property management issued to field missions and is monitoring actions taken to expedite the asset disposal process through key performance indicators in the property measurement performance system of the Department of Field Support.

45. The Administration's analysis of performance for the financial period ending 30 June 2010 shows that field missions have taken action to reprioritize their activities, while reducing the time frame for the disposal of assets. The Administration has established property disposal units in the majority of field missions as part of the property management sections. The senior management of field missions is more actively involved in negotiating with host Governments for local disposal of written-off assets. Furthermore, the Department of Management, in December 2010, issued procedural changes to the current delegation of authority for property management that will streamline the write-off approval process and will result in efficiency gains. The additional comments of the Administration on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 139 and 140 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Receiving and inspection

46. **In paragraph 142, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNAMID be required to conduct its receiving and inspection procedures in a timely manner when receiving assets and to record all the required information in the Galileo system.**

47. The comments of the Department of Field Support on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 143 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Stock ratio and surplus

48. **In paragraph 147, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that all missions be required to: (a) establish appropriate stock ratios for all categories of property based on mission-specific circumstances; and (b) regularly review their non-expendable property to ensure compliance with the established stock ratios and to avoid situations in which items are held in stock for unduly long periods.**

49. The Department of Field Support, in its annual directive on property management, reminded the field missions to constantly review their non-expendable property holdings to ensure that realistic quantities are being held, and to declare redundant assets as "surplus" in the Galileo system. The Administration reiterates that its stock ratios are not to be interpreted as maximum allowed stock levels, but rather as guidance on the level of stock deemed acceptable for a certain category of asset. However, missions are to justify any deviation from the ratios based on mission-specific circumstances, such as, a lack of control on procurement lead time and the reliability of suppliers; the need to maintain reserves for projects shifted in time; or mitigation of the impact of external factors, for instance, a change in the security conditions, delayed deployment of troops, mission drawdown or liquidation at short notice. In its workplan for the reporting period ending 30 June 2011, the Department modified the indicators of performance to separate surplus from overstock. The additional comments of the Administration are reflected in paragraph 148 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

G. Expendable property

Non-disclosure in the financial statements

50. **In paragraph 154, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Department of Field Support and the Office for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts expedite their preparations for the disclosure of expendable property in the financial statements, and/or in the notes thereto.**

51. It is recalled that in the Board's previous report (A/64/5 (Vol. II), para. 139), the Administration stated that disclosure of expendable property required considerable administrative resources in order to attain, maintain and validate underlying data. The Administration has committed to overcoming data limitations by June 2014, as it prepares for the new enterprise resource planning system and the implementation of International Public Sector Accounting Standards. As such,

achieving sufficient reliability of expendable property data for disclosure in the financial statements is necessarily a multi-year effort. As part of that effort, during the fiscal year 2010, the Administration took further actions to improve the reliability of expendable property data, some of which are mentioned in paragraph 150 of the Board's report. These efforts will be intensified in the coming years, so that reliable data for disclosure in the notes to the financial statements becomes available as soon as possible, and if feasible, even in advance of IPSAS implementation in June 2014.

52. As such, the Administration considers that, as previously committed, it is on target to disclose expendable property values in time for inclusion in the June 2014 financial statements at the latest, and therefore does not agree with the "not implemented" status of this recommendation, as stated in paragraph 14 and annex II of the Board's report. The Administration considers that this recommendation from last year is more appropriately classified as under implementation, in view of the progress made to date and the June 2014 target implementation date.

53. In addition, it should be noted that the property management business and reporting processes of the Department of Field Support are built to strictly comply with United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules, the administrative instruction on property records and inventory control under revised definition of non-expendable property dated 16 January 1992 (ST/AI/374) and financial reporting requirements under the United Nations system accounting standards. The Administration emphasizes that according to ST/AI/374, there is no requirement to maintain property records and controls except at the discretion of the head of office or department and for special items.

54. Nevertheless, in the Department of Field Support directive for the financial period ending 30 June 2011, missions are requested to ensure that the management practices and property controls over expendable property are strictly enforced in accordance with the Property Management Manual and the Department of Field Support warehousing guidelines, including proper storage and physical security of storage facilities, identification of material stored and issued to the users, and regular stock taking. The Department is taking action to strengthen the management of expendable property, including the project entitled "Strengthening mission inventory management through the establishment for a centrally supervised catalogue of expendable property" (see A/65/5 (Vol. II), para. 150), which is designed to ensure that accurate records of expendable property will be in place for disclosure in the financial statements in preparation for the introduction of IPSAS.

Department responsible: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: second quarter of 2014

Physical count and discrepancy reconciliation

55. **In paragraph 159, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's reiterated recommendation that the Administration strengthen the management and control of expendable property by ensuring that accurate records are maintained, physical counts are periodically conducted,**

discrepancies are promptly investigated and corrective actions are promptly taken.

56. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 154 of the Board's report. Furthermore, UNMIK has established procedures for monitoring the expendable property count, as well as a control mechanism to detect and resolve discrepancies in a timely manner. The additional comments of the Department of Field Support are reflected in paragraph 160 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Stock level and slow moving assets

57. **In paragraph 163, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require that all missions establish comprehensive stock level policies and take appropriate action with regard to slow-moving stock.**

58. The Department of Field Support reminded all missions, in its directive for the financial period ending 30 June 2011, to implement minimum and maximum inventory level control and use the order alert functionality in the Galileo Inventory Management System. In addition, best practices/procedures in the management of expendable property were disseminated through the community of practice for property management, such as the UNMIL guidelines entitled "six action points on expendables" and the UNIFIL standard operating procedures on prevention of theft and losses from warehouses. The additional comments of the Administration are reflected in paragraph 164 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

H. Strategic deployment stocks

Rotation of strategic deployment stocks

59. **In paragraph 167, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support, in collaboration with UNLB, require that all missions take existing strategic deployment stocks into consideration in their procurement plans to reduce duplication of procurement of identical or similar model strategic deployment stock assets.**

60. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 168 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

I. Contingent-owned equipment

Inspection coverage and management

61. **In paragraph 170, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support, in collaboration with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), expedite the appointment of additional personnel to undertake all inspection of contingent-owned equipment.**

62. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 171 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

63. **In paragraph 173, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require that UNMIS prepare verification reports on contingent-owned equipment only after physical inspections have been carried out.**

64. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 174 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Major equipment not provided in accordance with the memorandum of understanding

65. **In paragraph 176, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support take appropriate measures to ensure that the troop-contributing countries comply with the requirements of the memorandums of understanding concerning the provision of contingent-owned equipment.**

66. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 177 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

J. Procurement and contract management

Short bidding time frame

67. **In paragraph 181, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require that all missions allow adequate time for vendors to submit their bids, as provided for in the Procurement Manual, or justify the short time frame provided.**

68. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 153 to 157 below.

69. In addition, the Administration reiterates that the typical timelines given in the United Nations Procurement Manual are recommendations intended to guide the requisitioners in forecasting their needs and estimating the approximate lead time for conclusion of a solicitation by the Procurement Section. Moreover, the experience of the Department of Field Support over the years has shown that, owing to challenging environments and limited capacity, the extension of timelines has not resulted in an increase in the number or quality of bids received. Nevertheless, timelines are given to vendors on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the commodity or service required. However, with the relatively improved security conditions at some of the missions, more vendors are expressing interest in doing business with those missions, which has translated into overall improvement in the quality of bids being received.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: not accepted
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Acceptance of bids after the closing time

70. **In paragraph 185, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require UNAMID to: (a) establish clear, practical and uniform criteria for accepting or rejecting late bids; and (b) conduct tender opening procedures in accordance with Department guidelines, and, when necessary, record in the tender opening documentation the justification for accepting late proposals.**

71. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 186 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter 2011

Vendor performance evaluation

72. **In paragraph 188, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) to establish vendor performance evaluation processes in compliance with the Procurement Manual and document the justifications for retaining negatively rated vendors.**

73. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 189 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Headquarters Committee on Contracts/local committee on contracts

74. **In paragraph 192, the Board recommended that: (a) the Administration establish a mechanism to track the implementation of Headquarters Committee on Contracts recommendations and take appropriate action in a timely manner when concerns are raised; and (b) the Department of Field Support require that the local committee on contracts for the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) take similar measures.**

75. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 193 and 194 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Liquidated damages

76. **In paragraph 197, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require UNAMID and UNMIL to establish a robust process, where appropriate, for claiming liquidated damages in a timely manner.**

77. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 198 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Contract management

78. **In paragraph 200, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNMIT and MONUSCO should be required to have formalized contracts in place for the supply of all goods or services by third parties.**

79. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 201 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: full implementation is dependent on external factors

Ex post facto cases

80. **In paragraph 207, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support, in coordination with the Procurement Division: (a) endeavour to reduce the number of ex post facto cases; and (b) require that MONUSCO and UNOCI maintain a record of and monitor all such cases.**

81. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 208 to 210 of the Board's report. Reference is also made to the

comments of the Administration in paragraphs 163 to 167 below. Furthermore, MONUSCO now maintain logs of all ex post facto cases to facilitate their effective monitoring.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

82. **In paragraph 213, the Board recommends that the Department of Field Support request the services of the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) for the conduct of a thorough review of the awarding of the two contracts for the construction of the mission subsistence allowance accommodation and the headquarters office accommodation, given the scope of the contract and the risks involved.**

83. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 186 and 215 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

84. **In paragraph 214, the Board also recommended that the Department of Field Support emphasize the need for UNAMID to strictly comply with the requirements set out in the Procurement Manual with regard to the solicitation and evaluation of bids.**

85. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 186 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

K. Human resources management

Vacancy rate

86. **In paragraph 219, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support conduct a review on long-vacant posts to determine whether they are still needed and take appropriate action, as necessary.**

87. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 220 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Recruitment lead times

88. **In paragraph 222, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Department of Field Support take appropriate measures to reduce recruitment lead times for needed vacant posts.**

89. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 223 and 224 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Lead times for post classification

90. **In paragraph 227, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Department of Field Support: (a) expedite all requests for the classification and reclassification of posts; and (b) consider measures to automate the post classification process.**

91. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 228 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Performance appraisal system

92. **In paragraph 232, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's reiterated recommendation that all missions implement procedures to ensure that performance appraisals are completed and signed in a timely manner.**

93. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 235 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

94. **In paragraph 233, the Board also recommended that the Department of Field Support ensure that UNAMID and UNLB adhere strictly to the administrative instruction and the human resources handbook by awarding step increments and contract extensions to staff members against their performance appraisals.**

95. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 234 of the Board's report. Furthermore, in accordance with the current policy, management may only deny salary increment and/or contract extension in the case of an unsatisfactory performance rating.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

L. Air operations

Air operations resource utilization

96. **In paragraph 244, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require all missions to analyse the factors leading to the underutilization of aircraft and take appropriate action to enhance the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of aircraft utilization.**

97. The comments of the Department of Field Support on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 245 of the Board's report. With respect to the number of fixed-wing aircraft in UNMIT, the Department clarifies that two fixed-wing aircraft are necessary to maintain an aero-medical evacuation capability during planned or unscheduled maintenance of one aircraft. At UNMIT, there is no readily available commercial option to meet its requirement for medical evacuation capability, which is indispensable for the safety and well-being of staff. The underutilization of the capacity of the UNMIT fleet, which was cited by the Board, did not take into consideration the specialized use of the aircraft for operational reasons, such as medical evacuations. Aircraft employed for special flights for medical or casualty evacuations should be considered 100 per cent utilized, regardless of the number of passengers that actually travel on the flight. A dedicated medical evacuation flight may only carry two passengers, such as the patient and attending physician, but is nonetheless fully utilized.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Recovery of flight costs shared by other United Nations organizations

98. **In paragraph 247, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that the MINURCAT Technical Compliance Unit should follow up with regard to the estimated $1.5 million in unrecovered costs for aviation services provided to United Nations missions, agencies and other bodies in 2009/10 with a view to achieving full reimbursement.**

99. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 248 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Air operations data management

100. **In paragraph 250, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that the Air Transport Section be required to: (a) strengthen its data monitoring systems to ensure the completeness and accuracy of aviation data; and (b) enhance its analysis of the utilization of budgeted flight hours to identify the scope for achieving improved efficiency in air transport.**

101. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 251 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: fourth quarter of 2011

Special flights

102. **In paragraph 253, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require that MONUSCO: (a) implement adequate planning to avoid a high number of special flights; (b) implement and comply with the requirements of standard operating procedures for the processing of special flight requests; and (c) expedite, in consultation with United Nations Headquarters, the approval and implementation of the standard operating procedures on emergency or late booking requests.**

103. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 254 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

M. Vehicle fleet management

Vehicles donated and handed over

104. **In paragraph 258, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNAMID be required to: (a) carry out an investigation into the donated vehicles, especially those that had not been located, and take appropriate measures on the basis of the results of the investigation to verify their existence; and (b) record the donated vehicles in the Galileo system and manage them under the same terms and conditions as the United Nations-owned vehicles.**

105. Although the vehicles donated by the African Union Mission in the Sudan to UNAMID were not recorded in the Galileo system, the Mission had created a temporary database to keep track of these vehicles until the required documentation covering the donated vehicles was processed. The additional comments of the Department of Field Support are reflected in paragraph 259 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Vehicle entitlement

106. **In paragraph 262, the Board also recommended that the Department of Field Support require that UNMIT: (a) comply with the Standard Ratio and Cost Manual with regard to vehicle establishment; and (b) provide documented justifications for any deviations from the Manual.**

107. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 263 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Cannibalization and maintenance of vehicles

108. **In paragraph 266, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require: (a) that MONUSCO maintain inventory levels for spare parts for vehicles, which will obviate the need for cannibalization; and (b) that MONUSCO and MINUSTAH regularly monitor the cost of maintaining vehicles under their control and keep documentary evidence of the cost/benefit analysis used to support the continued use of vehicles reaching their replacement or write-off period.**

109. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraphs 267 and 268 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Liberty usage

110. **In paragraph 270, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require all missions to monitor the use of vehicles and record all liberty usage on a consistent basis, and to recover the related charges from the staff members concerned.**

111. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 271 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

N. Fuel management

Fuel and related cost recovery

112. **In paragraph 274, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNMIL be required to: (a) introduce mechanisms to monitor electricity usage and to bill residences for such usage; and (b) comply strictly with the requirements of UNMIL information circular No. 2006/07 on billing for the use of electricity by staff residents.**

113. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 276 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

114. **In paragraph 275, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Department of Field Support require UNMIL to perform regular follow-up with air operators on outstanding balances relating to recoverable fuel costs.**

115. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 277 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

O. Rations management

Claims for discount

116. **In paragraph 279, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNAMID be required to: (a) claim the discount entitlements for rations for the fifth and sixth periods of 2010; and (b) monitor actual troop strength in order to secure the rations discount in accordance with the rations contract.**

117. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 280 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Rations reserve stocks

118. **In paragraph 283, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that UNMIT and MONUSCO be required to maintain adequate rations reserve stocks at all times, as required.**

119. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 284 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

P. Information and communications technology

Access control

120. **In paragraph 286, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that all missions be required to establish and implement strict access control policies, including a password policy and a policy prohibiting unauthorized software.**

121. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 287 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Disaster recovery and business continuity

122. **In paragraph 289, the Department of Field Support agreed with the Board's recommendation that the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Support Office for the African Union Mission in Somalia (UNSOA) be required to establish a comprehensive disaster recovery and business continuity plan.**

123. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 290 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

124. **In paragraph 292, the Board recommended that the Department of Field Support require that MINUSTAH and UNSOA establish and maintain an information technology environment with adequate security protection.**

125. The Administration's comments on the recommendation are reflected in paragraph 293 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Q. Internal audit function

Implementation of the audit workplan

126. **In paragraph 296, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that OIOS continue to closely monitor the workplans of the Resident Auditors to ensure that audits are conducted and finalized in a timely manner.**

127. The comments of the Administration on this recommendation are reflected in paragraph 297 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Lead times for the issuance of internal audit reports

128. **In paragraph 299, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that OIOS ensure that the resident audit offices observe the deadline for issuing audit reports or amend the estimated completion dates, if necessary.**

129. The Administration's comments on this recommendation are reflected in paragraph 300 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

R. The placement and distribution of the investigative capacity of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Availability of appropriate management information with respect to OIOS investigation

130. **In paragraph 309, OIOS agreed with the Board's recommendation that the Investigations Division collect data on the cost, length and outcomes of its investigations and use that information to support improved and evidence-based decision-making, for example, monitoring costs against outputs so that investigators based in different locations can identify cost variations and promote efficient practice.**

131. The Administration's comments on this recommendation are reflected in paragraph 310 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: ongoing

132. **In paragraph 313, the Board recommended that OIOS urgently establish the baseline and criteria for the pilot evaluation and mechanisms to gather the necessary data to report against the agreed evaluative criteria.**

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

OIOS Investigations Division's case for moving from a resident to a hub structure

133. **In paragraph 323, OIOS agreed with the Board's recommendation that enhanced training be provided for relevant mission staff, both where they are required to conduct the initial collection of evidence for an investigation and where they are required to conduct an entire investigation, in order to mitigate the risks to quality associated with a reduced mission presence, in particular, because mission-based staff may not have the skills and experience to conduct, in accordance with an appropriate standard, the investigations referred to them.**

134. The Administration's comments on this recommendation are reflected in paragraph 324 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: ongoing

The extent of redeployment in practice

135. **In paragraph 332, the Board notes that, given the importance of an effective investigation function in managing risks to the United Nations, there may be a good case for reconsidering how the vacancy situation might be addressed. The Board therefore recommended that OIOS work with the Office of Human Resources Management to address the problems related to vacancies in investigator positions. This may include not only revisiting vacancy notices to assess the appropriateness of required qualifications and experience, but also adopting more innovative approaches such as building a roster of pre-approved investigators who can be deployed on short-term contracts to address fluctuations in workload, as well as employing a policy of rotating staff among various locations to help attract and retain staff.**

136. The Administration's comments on this recommendation are reflected in paragraph 333 of the Board's report.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: ongoing

Alignment of investigative resources to caseload

137. **In paragraph 337, OIOS agreed with the Board's recommendation that the appropriate level of resources required for its investigation work and their most cost-effective deployments be determined, taking into consideration cost, quality, length, outcome, risk and the geographical distribution of workload. Any proposed change in resource deployment should be based on a full**

cost/benefit analysis based on relevant and reliable management information, and should also involve full consultation and communication with all stakeholders, including field mission management.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: ongoing

IV. Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for prior financial periods

138. In paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 64/268, the Secretary-General was requested to provide, in future reports on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning the United Nations peacekeeping operations, a full explanation for delays in implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Board.

139. In annex II to its report for the period ended 30 June 2010 (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II), the Board provided a summary of the status of implementation of recommendations for previous financial periods. Information is provided below on the 47 recommendations listed in annex II as outstanding from prior periods, 45 of which are shown as "under implementation" and 2 as "not implemented". The information is set out in the order in which the recommendations are presented in the report of the Board of Auditors for the period ended 30 June 2009 (A/64/5 (Vol. II)). A total of 86 recommendations were made in that report, of which 55 had been implemented as of the date of issuance of the present report.

140. Table 3 below provides a more detailed analysis of the responsible departments with target dates for recommendations for which implementation is in progress.

Table 3
Status of implementation of outstanding previous recommendations as at 30 June 2010

Department responsible	*Number of recommendations*	*Not accepted*	*Implemented*	*In progress*	*Target date set*	*No target date*
Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support	38	—	9	29	20	9
Department of Management and Department of Field Support	6	1	5	—	—	—
Department of Management	1	—	—	1	1	—
Office of Internal Oversight Services	2	—	2	—	—	—
Total	**47**	**1**	**16**	**30**	**21**	**9**

141. It should be noted that, of the 30 recommendations in progress, 20 are targeted for implementation before the end of 2011 and 1 before end of June 2014. Of the

nine recommendations without a target date, seven are ongoing and the full implementation of the remaining two is dependent on factors that are beyond the control of the Administration.

A. Unliquidated obligations

Creation of unliquidated obligations

142. **In paragraph 33, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration ensure that all missions comply strictly with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations relating to the criteria for the creation and cancellation of obligations.**

143. **Reference is made to the Administration's comments in paragraphs 16 and 17 above.**

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

B. Liabilities and receivables

End-of-service liabilities

144. **In paragraph 36, the Board reiterated its recommendation that the Administration ensure that all attendance and leave records are accurately maintained so that the annual leave provision can be correctly and accurately determined.**

145. Effective January 2009, the Matrix system has been implemented in missions as the official and standard electronic time and attendance management tool. The system provides automatic accurate reports on the status-of-leave records for leave management and computation of end-of-service accrued leave. MONUSCO has provided training to the relevant staff of the Human Resources Section in the use of the Matrix system and has initiated clean-up action to update all leave balances through the attendance records. All leave requests in Matrix are now consistently updated on a monthly basis and reconciled with supporting documents. The Mission expects to complete the uploading and reconciliation of data into Matrix for national staff during the first quarter of 2011 to facilitate the accurate calculation of year-end leave balances.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Accounts receivable

146. **In paragraph 61, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that MONUC takes appropriate measures to recover all long-outstanding accounts receivable.**

147. Reference is made to the Administration's comments in paragraph 19 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: full implementation is dependent on external factors

C. Budgeting, including results-based budgeting

148. **In paragraph 68, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that all missions take appropriate measures to ensure that all the indicators of achievement and outputs for the results-based-budgeting framework are formulated as specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound to facilitate monitoring and reporting.**

149. The measures implemented by the missions (UNMIS, UNAMID, and UNSOA) and the United Nations Logistics Base (UNLB) in setting clear and measurable indicators of achievement and outputs included application of lessons learned from the previous budget cycle to the framework for the 2011/12 financial period and the provision of training to the relevant staff. The United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) stated that the results-based-budgeting framework for the 2009/10 budget proposal was developed during the middle of the UNMIK reconfiguration and, at that time, it was unclear to what extent and in what areas UNMIK would be able to continue to achieve these indicators. It was therefore jointly decided between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and UNMIK to leave the indicators and outputs substantially unchanged and to review them during the preparation of the 2011/12 budget proposal, once the Mission's achievements in 2009/10 had been analysed. Accordingly, the 2011/12 budget proposal now includes modified indicators of achievement and outputs which are achievable. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board of Auditors confirmed that UNOCI had implemented the recommendation.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

150. **In paragraph 71, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its reiterated recommendation to ensure that UNMIK and UNMIL reinforce their information gathering and portfolio of evidence processes for results-based budgeting in all components.**

151. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that the recommendation had been implemented by UNMIK. UNMIL is adopting the systems in use at UNDOF and UNMIK in order to implement a results-based-budgeting database to standardize data collection. This project is expected to be implemented during the third quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

D. Procurement and contract management

Bidding time frame

152. **In paragraph 89, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that the Procurement Division and all missions comply strictly with the requirements of the Procurement Manual relating to the minimum time frames for the submission of proposals and responses to requests for quotations, invitations to bid and requests for proposals.**

153. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 69 above.

154. In addition, reference is made to section 9.9.7 of the Procurement Manual, in which it is stated "the procurement officer shall, to the extent possible, ensure that prospective vendors are given sufficient time to understand the solicitation documents and formulate the appropriate reply to said solicitation". With respect to short-term air charter bids (the specific case cited in the report), it may not be possible to offer the vendors more time to bid, since requests are made with short lead-times owing to operational requirements (e.g. rotation of deployment requisition is submitted three weeks before actual rotation).

155. Furthermore, considering that short-term air charter bids are not complex in nature, even the short time offered is sufficient for the interested vendors to submit their bid. It should not be concluded by the Board that the receipt of only a few bids in response to an exercise (despite an invitation to 87 vendors) is an indication of insufficient time given to bid. In most of these instances, the Procurement Division also received numerous letters acknowledging the invitation to bid but refusing to bid for many reasons, primarily non-availability or the inability to compete efficiently owing to geographic limitations.

156. In 2007, the Logistics and Transportation Section conducted a survey of registered vendors asking how many days should be allowed to prepare and respond to a bid for urgent requirements to start within 14 days and within 21 days. Vendors responded that the Procurement Division should allow in average of 4 to 5 days and 6 to 7 days, respectively. The invitations to bid for short-term passenger charters and the technical forms are standard, with only the specific requirements changed — the number of passengers to be rotated, the dates of the rotation, the airports of origin and destination and the passengers' baggage entitlements (cargo weight and volume). The aircraft operators utilize computerized software applications and can provide a schedule for each flight for each aircraft they operate in the region within a few hours. The copies of the aircraft documents that bidders have provided as part of the bid response are retained in the database by the Movement Control Section and the Aviation Transportation Section, which facilitates and reduces the time necessary for submission and revision of the documents.

157. The reason for the shortened bidding time in the case cited is due to exigencies that have been duly reviewed by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts and recorded in the minutes of their meetings. Furthermore, the vendor roster in the one case cited contained 87 registered vendors, which is more than sufficient to carry out the exercise in question.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: not accepted
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Premises occupied without valid contracts

158. **In paragraph 100, the Board reported that the Administration agreed with its recommendation that MONUC should seek ways to resolve the dispute between the Mission and the landlords to ensure that valid leases are in existence for premises occupied by the Mission.**

159. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 201 of the Board's current report (see also paras. 78 and 79 above).

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: full implementation is dependent on external factors

Rations contract

160. **In paragraph 107, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation to: (a) set up clear and unambiguous discount/surcharge terms in procurement contracts; and (b) claim the global discount based on the total number of troops supported.**

161. The Administration has submitted a response to the Board that it understands and satisfies the issues raised in this recommendation. With regard to the UNIFIL troop discount issue observed in the 2008/09 report, it should be noted that the issue has been resolved and the Mission has been properly credited by the vendor.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Ex post facto cases

162. **In paragraph 112, the Board recommended that the Administration intensify its efforts to reduce the number of ex post facto cases submitted to the Headquarters Committee on Contracts for review.**

163. The Administration accepts this recommendation, and considers that the recommendation has been implemented as noted in paragraphs 164 to 167 below.

164. The Administration wishes to note that there are operational reasons for ex post facto cases, such as the safety or security of staff or exceptional conditions that the Secretariat faces that are beyond its control (force majeure, unrest, conflict, etc.), which dictate the situation with regard to procurement.

165. In addition, the timely processing of letters of assist, which represent 45 per cent of the 2009/10 ex post facto cases, is strongly influenced by the negotiations between the Department of Field Support and the troop-contributing country. An additional 13 per cent of the 2009/10 ex post facto cases relate to the earthquake in Haiti, and thus are considered exigency cases. The Administration further notes that, although the Board indicated an increase of 48 per cent in both the number and dollar value of ex post facto cases, the actual number of cases is only 15 per cent of the total number of cases reviewed by the Headquarters Committee on Contracts, and the value is only 6.4 per cent of the total value reviewed.

166. In regard to ex post facto reviews required because of contract management issues, the Procurement Division continues to work with the requisitioners through: (a) training; (b) discussion at the Chief Procurement Officer conference; (c) the development of the Contract Administration Tracking System (CATS); and (d) the automated reports issued to the requisitioners in order to minimize ex post facto cases.

167. The introduction of virtual meetings of the Headquarters Committee on Contracts with the missions and offices away from Headquarters should further reduce ex post facto cases.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Vendor management

168. **In paragraph 124, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that the requirements of the Procurement Manual with regard to vendor management are complied with at Headquarters and all missions.**

169. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNDOF, UNMIK and UNOCI had implemented the recommendation. In addition, measures have been taken by the Procurement Division to address vendor management compliance at Headquarters, as outlined above, in the response to the recommendation in paragraph 89 of the Board's (A/64/5 (Vol. II)).

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Vendor performance evaluation

170. **In paragraph 127, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that all missions prepare the vendor performance reports and submit them to the Procurement Division on a regular basis.**

171. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNDOF and the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) had implemented the recommendation. MONUSCO has established a vendor management team tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that vendor performance evaluations are conducted in accordance with established procedures.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Liquidated damages and insurance coverage

172. **In paragraph 133, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with the Board's reiterated previous recommendation to ensure that MINURCAT and UNAMID comply strictly with the requirements of the Procurement Manual in relation to the liquidated damages.**

173. MINURCAT withdrew the liquidated damages claim in exchange for a reduction in the prime management office costs during the first four months of the contract. UNAMID now applies the liquidated damages clause on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the Procurement Manual. Furthermore, procedural steps and timelines for applying liquidated damages within UNAMID have been spelled out to the concerned sections, including measures to be initiated by self-accounting units, the Procurement Section, the Contracts Management Section and the Finance Section. The Mission management has issued instructions to these sections clarifying their responsibilities in applying the liquidated damages clauses. To further strengthen consistency and coherence among the relevant components, a standard operating procedure will be finalized during the first quarter of 2011 for the relevant offices outlining further their responsibilities for the application of liquidated damages claims.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: first quarter of 2011

E. Expendable property

174. **In paragraph 141, the Board reiterates its previous recommendation that the Administration expedite its preparations for the recording of expendable property and disclose its value in the financial statements, and/or in the notes thereto.**

175. The Administration has intensified efforts to disclose expendable property in the financial statements as soon as possible. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 50 to 54 above.

Department responsible: Department of Management
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: second quarter of 2014

Physical counts and inventory records

176. **In paragraph 146, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should strengthen the management and control of expendable property by ensuring that accurate records are maintained, physical counts are periodically conducted, discrepancies are promptly investigated and corrective actions are promptly taken.**

177. The Administration addressed the need to strengthen the management and control of expendable property through the issuance of three directives on property management, as well as the Department of Field Support warehousing guidelines. In particular, the directive on property management issued by the Department in December 2009 introduced a key performance indicator to monitor the holdings of expendable property in stock, as part of the Department's property management performance measurement system. The key performance indicator enables self-accounting units to monitor the reconciliation of discrepancies between physical counts and the quantities recorded in the Galileo Inventory Management System. The results of the 2009/10 financial period confirm the positive trend in expendable property management observed during the last three years. The Department of Field Support, through the community of practice for property management, has disseminated field best practices in managing expendable property, such as the UNMIL guidelines entitled "six action points on expendables" and the UNIFIL standard operating procedure on prevention of theft and losses from warehouses. In January 2010, the Department of Field Support launched a project on strengthening mission inventory management through the establishment of a centrally supervised catalogue of expendable property. It is aimed at systematization and cleansing of expendable property data in the Galileo Inventory Management System, which will significantly strengthen the ability of missions to maintain accurate records and will better position the Department to meet the requirement for disclosure of expendable property in the financial statements. Reference is also made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 50 to 54 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Stock level management

178. **In paragraph 149, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that MONUC and UNMIL monitor minimum and maximum stock levels in the database to ensure that they are maintained at the recommended levels.**

179. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 58 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

F. Non-expendable property

Physical verification and discrepancies

180. **In paragraph 154, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should carry out full and complete physical verifications to support the amount of non-expendable property that is disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.**

181. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 38 and 39 above.

Department responsible: Department of Management and Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

182. **In paragraph 162, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its reiterated recommendation that all missions should promptly investigate the discrepancies relating to non-expendable property and take appropriate measures to ensure that their asset records are accurate and reliable.**

183. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 39 and 40 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Delays in write-off and disposal of non-expendable property

184. **In paragraph 169, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should strengthen its monitoring of the write-off and disposal of non-expendable property at missions to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to expedite all pending write-offs and disposals.**

185. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 44 and 45 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Stock ratios and surplus

186. **In paragraph 180, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation to: (a) review the non-expendable property at all active missions in order to ascertain the realistic quantities that should be held; (b) identify and declare surplus assets in the system; and (c) take appropriate measures to transfer all surplus assets to missions in need of them, or the United Nations Logistics Base, or to dispose of them as appropriate.**

187. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 49 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Fire prevention and safety

188. **In paragraph 183, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that UNAMID should install fire pre-warning systems in all warehouses.**

189. UNAMID has installed fire extinguishers in its warehouses. It has installed fire detection systems in the Agricultural Research College Compound and installation at other Mission facilities is in progress.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

G. Downsizing and liquidation

Downsizing at UNMIK

190. **In paragraph 187, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation to document the lessons learned from the UNMIK reconfiguration and incorporate them into operating policies.**

191. The Administration clarifies that the actions taken by UNMIK in the drawdown of the Mission were in line with the provisions of rule 9.7 of the United Nations Staff Rules. The criteria were explained to all staff members prior to the commencement of the drawdown exercise.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

H. Strategic deployment stocks

192. **In paragraph 195, the Board recommended that the Administration strengthen monitoring in respect of slow-moving strategic deployment stocks.**

193. The Administration has implemented a system of periodic monitoring of slow-moving strategic deployment stocks. As a requirement, UNLB now monitors and submits quarterly reports to the Logistics Support Division on slow-moving items.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Issuance of strategic deployment stocks

194. **In paragraph 198, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that UNLB issues items on a first-in-first-out basis to avoid possible deterioration and obsolescence of strategic deployment stocks.**

195. The Administration reiterates that it employs the inventory management best practice policy of first-in-first-out, so that the earliest acquired items in stock are dispatched first. The strategic deployment stocks are thereby rotated according to age to ensure that they have their full service life expectancy at the time of deployment. UNLB is now in full compliance with the first-in-first-out principle for the management of strategic deployment stocks.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: high
Target date: not applicable

Life expectancy

196. **In paragraph 201, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that UNLB establishes a monitoring mechanism to prevent strategic deployment stocks from being held beyond their life expectancy.**

197. The Administration reiterates that the trauma kits that were the basis of the recommendation comprised both non-expendable and expendable property items, including medicines and bandages, which are rotated in accordance with an established schedule, or after the kits have been used in emergency situations. The kits deployed to UNAMID have been maintained in a state of readiness in the event of a medical emergency. The expendable elements of these trauma kits were shipped by the vendor to Brindisi and later transferred to UNAMID, resulting in the expiration of a number of expendable elements. The Department of Field Support has taken action with the equipment system contract vendor to ensure that when the strategic deployment stocks medical kits are deployed, they contain expendable items with a sufficient period of useful life remaining. All expired items in the trauma kits that form the fly-away component of strategic deployment stocks maintained in UNLB have been replaced.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

I. Contingent-owned equipment

Fuel consumption monitoring

198. **In paragraph 204, the Board recommended that the Administration develop measures to monitor fuel consumption of contingent-owned equipment.**

199. At missions, the standard usage rates of fuel for vehicles and generators, including those for contingents, are determined through periodic reports that are generated from the United Nations fuel calculator. Missions employ either the mission electronic fuel accounting system or trip tickets to monitor fuel consumption of vehicles. Log sheets are used to monitor the working hours and fuel consumption of generators. The Department of Field Support has issued the required guidance to the missions to ensure effective accounting for fuel.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

J. Vehicle fleet management

200. **In paragraph 236, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that MONUC and MINURCAT make efforts to keep sufficient material for workshops to reduce the vehicle waiting period.**

201. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 267 and 268 of the Board's current report (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that the implementation of the recommendation by MINURCAT had been overtaken by events.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

K. Fuel management

Strategic fuel reserves

202. **In paragraph 244, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that all missions take steps to maintain a strategic fuel reserve.**

203. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that MONUSCO, UNMIL and UNAMID had implemented the recommendation. At UNSOA, the installation of adequate fuel reserves was not possible during the 2009/10 financial period owing to the short-term nature of the initial fuel contract. Since July 2010, UNSOA has had a long-term fuel contract which requires a strategic fuel reserve of 1 million litres. The Mission confirmed that the contractor is currently being mobilized and the reserve should be in place during the first quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Fuel consumption

204. **In paragraph 249, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that all missions strengthen their monitoring of fuel consumption patterns.**

205. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNDOF had implemented the recommendation and that the implementation of the recommendation by MINURCAT had been overtaken by events. MINURSO has completed tank calibration and provided dipsticks for generators and vehicle tanks at four team sites and its logistics base. The replacement of all substandard tanks with flow meters and dipsticks to facilitate the monitoring of fuel consumption of generators is ongoing. UNMIT has issued formal guidance on the recording of fuel supplies and the personnel authorized to sign for fuel, particularly for deliveries for the refilling of generators. In recognition that there may not be engineering staff to record the supply of fuel in all locations, the Mission's standard operating procedure on United Nations-owned generator fuel control allows for an international staff member to sign for fuel deliveries in these locations. These measures have been implemented to allow for better control and management of fuel. In addition, periodic manual downloads of the carlog data allow the Mission to closely monitor the fuel consumption of its vehicles. The Department of Field Support has reminded UNSOA to monitor fuel consumption in accordance with established procedures and is following up this matter with the mission.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: fourth quarter of 2011

L. Rations management

Rations Manual

206. **In paragraph 255, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation to update the Rations Manual to reflect changes to the United Nations rations scale and food ordering methods.**

207. The working group updating the Rations Manual met in Brindisi in June 2010 and produced an outline of the draft of the Manual reflecting processes aligned with the new United Nations rations scale. The methodology for ordering, reporting and monitoring of food, based on a recipe-driven menu plan, has been completed. MONUSCO implemented such a system in August 2010; UNIFIL, UNFYCIP and UNDOF are scheduled for December 2010, UNAMID and UNMIS for March 2011, followed by MINUSTAH, UNMIT, MINURSO and UNMIL. Owing to the proposed changes in food standards, quality control and monitoring mechanisms resulting

from the food consultant's review of the United Nations rations scale, the Rations Manual is anticipated to be promulgated during the second quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

M. Air operations

Aviation budget

208. **In paragraph 275, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that all missions address the underutilization of budgeted flying hours.**

209. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 97 above. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that MINURSO had implemented the recommendation.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Fuel costs recovery

210. **In paragraph 286, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that: (a) UNMIL performs regular follow-ups on outstanding balances relating to recoverable fuel costs with air operators; and (b) UNMIS obtains reimbursement for non-revenue-flight fuel consumption.**

211. UNMIL advised that significant progress had been made in clearing the accounts receivable outstanding for more than one year. Of the $345,757 that was outstanding as of June 2009, $282,139 had been cleared. As previously stated to the Board, UNMIL now routinely monitors the accounts receivable from air operators to facilitate their recovery in a timely manner. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNMIS had implemented the recommendation.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: ongoing

Management and evaluation of air charter agreements

212. **In paragraph 292, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that MONUC, in consultation with Headquarters, should strengthen measures for the management and evaluation of air charter agreements.**

213. The Administration is concerned that instances still exist where air operators' performance evaluations were not submitted to the Department of Field Support in accordance with established procedures. The Department of Field Support policy

directive is clear on the submission deadlines for the performance evaluation reports. The Department has reminded MONUSCO to strictly monitor and ensure that the evaluation reports are submitted as required.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

N. Information and communications technology

Control management

214. **In paragraph 302, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that all missions review the password access controls and make the necessary amendments to strengthen such controls.**

215. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNMIK and MONUSCO had implemented the recommendation. The current version of the SunSystem has the controls for enforcement of the requirements of periodic password change, minimum password length and mixed alpha-numeric passwords. The Department of Field Support has reminded all missions to apply the respective standard settings. Meanwhile, MINUSTAH informed that it has reinforced internal controls against unauthorized access to the SunSystem through the implementation of the Windows timed screen saver with password control, and users are prompted to change their passwords every 42 days, in line with Department policy.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Policies and procedures

216. **In paragraph 311, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that UNMIK and UNMIL should finalize the policies and procedures on the communications and information technology system.**

217. In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNMIK had implemented the recommendation. UNMIL confirmed that 7 out of the 18 communications and information technology system policies and procedures were issued as of August 2010. Furthermore, the three policies and procedures requiring the action of Headquarters had been issued to the missions, including UNMIL. According to UNMIL, the remaining policies would be finalized during the first quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Capacity-building

218. **In paragraph 315, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that: (a) UNMIK should appoint new members to the Information and Communications Technology Review Committee; and (b) UNMIS should establish an Information Security Unit and designate the Information Security Coordinator, the Access Control System Administrator and the Security Systems Administrator.**

219. At UNMIK, the re-established Information and Communications Technology Review Committee held its first meeting in October 2009. Other meetings were held in August and November 2010. The Mission stated that the Committee would meet regularly, but on an as-needed basis. UNMIS has established the Information Security Unit within the Communications and Information Technology Section, with the arrival of its Information Technology Security Coordinator in October 2010. The Coordinator is performing the functions of the Access Control System Administrator and the Security System Administrator, pending the full staffing of the Information Security Unit.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

O. Human resources management

Vacancy and turnover rates

220. **In paragraph 324, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its reiterated recommendation that it should take urgent measures to fill vacancies so as to enable the missions to execute their mandates effectively.**

221. The Administration reiterates that it is implementing the new talent management system in the field. It is an approach that streamlines recruitment and considerably reduces lead times by centralizing most of the recruitment process and establishing right-sized rosters of highly qualified candidates who are ready to be deployed immediately upon request by the missions. Since implementation, a significant improvement in international staff vacancy rates has been evident in peacekeeping operations, from 28 per cent as at 30 June 2009 to 23.8 per cent as at 30 June 2010. Local staff vacancy rates demonstrated an even better improvement, from 29.5 per cent as at 30 June 2009 to 15.1 per cent as at 30 June 2010.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Recruitment lead times

222. **In paragraph 327, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its reiterated recommendation that all missions should take appropriate measures to reduce recruitment lead times.**

223. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraphs 223 and 224 of the Board's current report (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II).

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Post classification

224. **In paragraph 332, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that it should expedite all requests for classification and reclassification of posts at the various missions.**

225. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 228 of the Board's current report (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II).

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: ongoing

Performance appraisal system

226. **In paragraph 337, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that MONUC and UNMIL should implement procedures to ensure that performance appraisals are completed and signed off in a timely manner.**

227. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 235 of the Board's current report (A/65/5 (Vol. II), chap. II). In its interim report issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that MONUSCO had implemented the recommendation.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: third quarter of 2011

Leave management

228. **In paragraph 340, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that it should ensure that all missions adhere strictly to the policy regarding the recording and monitoring of time and attendance and reconcile the attendance records kept by the human resources sections with those of the finance sections.**

229. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 145 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: high
Target date: first quarter of 2011

230. **In paragraph 341, the Board recommended that the Administration investigate all outstanding receivables relating to overpayments to peacekeeping staff members, with a view to recovery.**

231. The Department of Field Support has requested the concerned missions to reconcile all time and attendance data related to staff members who left the missions during the period under review, and this task has been completed. The Department is working with the missions to initiate actions that will trigger necessary recoveries of overpayments where applicable. The process of recovering involves many actors, as well as coordination between missions and Headquarters. It also involves the review of each case to ensure that those with negative balances have issued personnel actions placing concerned staff on special leave without pay and correcting the separation personnel action which will enable the Payroll Unit to establish the amounts of overpayments. Every effort is being made to complete this exercise by the second quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

232. **In paragraph 343, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that it should ensure that MONUC updates leave records in a timely manner in the Matrix system and that sick leave transactions are duly approved so as to ensure accurate calculation of leave balances.**

233. Reference is made to the comments of the Administration in paragraph 145 above.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

Induction training

234. **In paragraph 350, the Board recommended that the Administration ensure that civilian staff members complete their induction training before they commence operations.**

235. The Department of Field Support seeks the approval of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for any exceptions to the requirement for personnel assigned to peacekeeping missions to attend induction training prior to deployment. Record keeping is being enhanced in order to ensure follow-up in those few cases where exceptions are granted for urgent operational reasons. With the advent of the electronic talent management system, this recommendation is expected to be implemented during the second quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Post-training management

236. **In paragraph 357, the Board reported that the Administration had agreed with its recommendation that it should ensure that all missions strengthen their documentation and monitoring of training courses undertaken.**

237. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that the implementation of the recommendation by MINURCAT had been overtaken by events and MONUSCO had implemented the recommendation. UNLB confirms that a draft training centre standard operating procedure is currently under consideration and is expected to be issued during the first quarter of 2011.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: first quarter of 2011

P. Quick-impact projects

Project implementation

238. **In paragraph 363, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Administration should ensure that all missions take appropriate measures to ensure that quick-impact projects are completed within specified time frames.**

239. In its interim reports issued during the fourth quarter of 2010, the Board confirmed that UNIFIL and UNMIS had implemented the recommendation. The Department of Field Support clarifies that the guidelines for quick-impact projects issued to the missions are not mandatory. However, a review of the guidelines is under way which will take into account the recommendations of the oversight bodies.

240. UNMIL has reviewed its identification and selection processes for projects to ensure that only projects that can be implemented within the specified time frames are funded. The Mission has also established a short list of competent and performing implementing partners. The Mission has been working with its Government counterparts and United Nations agencies in the identification of priority projects and maintains an updated list of funded and non-funded projects at all times, so as to speed up the identification process. Over 20 per cent of funded projects are non-construction-related, which is an improvement over the previous fiscal year when they represented 4 per cent. The delays in the implementation of projects are essentially due to the extremely poor road infrastructure outside of the capital. The selection of projects has been reviewed to ensure that only projects within fairly accessible areas are considered for funding. UNMIL is increasingly working with implementing partners on the clearance of long-outstanding accounts receivable. On 29 September 2010, the Mission issued letters to contractors that had delayed the implementation of their projects. The Solicitor-General of Liberia has expressed his support and readiness to work with the Mission to have projects completed and funds accounted for promptly.

241. MONUSCO is identifying ways in which problems, including underspending and project delays, could be addressed. UNAMID has undertaken an overall evaluation of the performance of quick-impact projects for the 2009/10 financial period and further employed a consultant to assess and recommend concrete

measures towards addressing issues related to the implementation of quick-impact projects. In line with the recommendations of the consultant, UNAMID has recruited a seasoned administrative staff member who is currently focusing on quick-impact projects and related issues, including those raised by the Board. Furthermore, the Mission has conducted a compliance review and has launched an annual evaluation of the quick-impact projects, which is expected to be completed by 30 June 2011. The executing agency capacity assessment form has been developed and circulated to quick-impact project focal points. The form was introduced in October 2010. In addition, the Mission has reviewed and amended guidelines and its quick-impact project cycle flowchart, as recommended, facilitating the effective implementation of quick-impact projects throughout the Mission area.

Department responsible: Department of Field Support
Status: in progress
Priority: medium
Target date: second quarter of 2011

Q. Internal audit functions

Implementation of the audit plan

242. **In paragraph 372, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should continue to monitor the workplans of the resident auditors carefully so as to ensure that audits are executed and finalized in a timely manner.**

243. The management of the Internal Audit Division holds monthly meetings with resident audit offices, and the Chief of the Peacekeeping Audit Service regularly interacts with resident auditors to closely monitor the implementation of the workplans.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable

Internal audit reports

244. **In paragraph 377, the Board reiterated its previous recommendation that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should ensure that the resident audit offices observe the deadline for issuing audit reports, or revise the estimates of completion times in line with realistic and professional targets.**

245. The recommendation has been implemented and will continue to be implemented by further improving audit planning to establish more realistic milestones and more closely monitoring individual audit plans.

Department responsible: Office of Internal Oversight Services
Status: implemented
Priority: medium
Target date: not applicable